Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Minister Alarcon on Recent Brazzaville Talks

FL0912025088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0045 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Report by Gisela Bel Heredia during "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres—live or recorded]

[Text] [Heredia] Good evening, Cuba. We are here at the Ambassador Room of the Habana Libre Hotel. [Vice Foreign Minister] Ricardo Alarcon has granted a news conference on the quadripartite talks to dozens of national and foreign reporters.

As is well known, last Saturday the South African delegation left Brazzaville. Many people are now wondering what the possibilities are for the negotiations being carried out by Angola, Cuba, and South Africa with the United States as mediator.

This reporter was present at the conference. Comrade Alarcon.

[Alarcon] I think that, regarding the negotiation's possibilities, we must take into account, on the one hand, the unusual way in which the negotiations in Brazzaville were interrupted when one of the parties literally fled the hotel where we were gathered without giving you, or any other press members, answers to the legitimate question: What happened and what is going to happen now?

This problem is, naturally, cause for concern; perhaps the most important thing in any agreement between states or people is a feeling of seriousness between the ones signing the agreement. Faced with the type of conduct that was seen last Saturday night in Brazzaville, anyone would have reason to doubt the seriousness of one of the parties at that meeting.

However, I would say that the parties are still in contact via the mediator. Dr Crocker is continuing his efforts to make advancements in the process we are involved in. I was previously asked about verification. [as heard] I quoted Mr Redman and said that I agreed with him on that subject.

As you know, a number of agreements have been reached throughout these months of patient and complex negotiations. We could say, to repeat what Comrade Fidel said this past Monday, that we are actually very close to an agreement in Brazzaville. This has also been noted by Mr Redman in his statement, to which I have already alluded.

The strange thing about the escapade that took place last Saturday night is that the points that still need to be resolved are very concrete, but also very important.

Agreement Prospects

FL0912033188 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon today answered different questions from national and foreign journalists regarding the quadripartite negotiations on southwest Africa. The vice foreign minister gave a briefing on the prospects for a possible agreement.

[Begin recording] [Alarcon, identified by caption] I would say that the main focus at this moment is agreeing in a real and serious manner on two fundamental matters.

First of all: When will we meet to sign the agreements that we have fundamentally [words indistinct] details on a few other matters, besides this matter of the date.

The second matter is: What day, and on what date, will we recommend to the United Nations for the beginning of the application of Resolution 435 with, and I repeat, the entire plan intact as it was approved 10 years ago, without modifications or last-minute adulterations. We also have to agree on this matter. [end recording]

Vice Minister Alarcon [words indistinct] the South African part during the dialogue withdrew from the talks held last week in Brazzaville. The meeting should have concluded with the signing of a protocol.

Another important aspect discussed at the news conference at the Habana Libre Hotel pertained to certain attempts to change Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence.

[Begin Alarcon recording] I don't want to go into a lot of details. I am familiar with a lot of details, a lot of details. There are so many details that I'm very concerned and I can assure you that it does exist. It is not an idea. It is not a proposal.

At a certain time at the beginning of the talks the South Africans suggested that it would be convenient to adjust, update, and modify the plan. We know that [words indistinct] and much more. There is a proposal. There is a plan. Some people are working in this direction.

We categorically reject these plans. We are certain that they will be rejected by the Third World. It would be unacceptable to do nothing at this level, to contribute in one way or another to falsifying the process of Namibia's independence. [end recording]

Soviet Official on Gorbachev Cancellation

FL0812152888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1330 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Remarks by Viktor Komplektov, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, during "urgent" news conference at Habana Libre Hotel on 8 December at 0820 GMT, in Russian with passage-by-passage Spanish translation—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed Cuban friends, a strong earthquake was registered in the Transcaucasian republics in the Soviet Union yesterday. You know how natural disasters are.

To give you an idea of the extent of this natural disaster, I would like to give you some information.

We already received word that in some areas of the country the earthquake reached an intensity of up to 8 degrees on the Richter scale. We have been informed that this earthquake has caused very heavy material damages and numerous victims. We don't have the exact figures but will give them to you as soon as we receive them.

A state commission was created to deal with the effects of this disaster. This commission is headed by Comrade Nikolay Ryzhkov, prime minister of our country, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The commission already began to work.

Now that we know everything is being done to deal with the effects of the disaster, Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU and president of our country, considers it his duty to be with our country's people to help deal with the effects of this disaster and help the people in the country.

In New York a few hours ago, our country's Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze made a statement on behalf of our country's general secretary and president. He said the New York visit and the other scheduled visits are being canceled. He also said the scheduled visits to Cuba and the UK are going to be canceled and will be made later under more favorable conditions.

We express our regret that the visit to Cuba is not going to take place because of these circumstances. We are very grateful to our Cuban friends and comrades for all the preparations being made for this visit, for everything that was done to prepare this visit.

We sincerely hope that our Cuban friends, that the Cuban people will understand that the visit to Cuba is not going to take place under these circumstances. We are certain that the visit will take place later.

Castro Sends Condolences

FL0812183488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Dec 88

["Text" of message sent by President Fidel Castro to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev from Havana on 8 December]

[Text] Dear Comrade Gorbachev,

On behalf of our country, I wish to express to you and the Soviet people our deepest sorrow regarding the victims and destruction caused by the earthquake in extensive areas of southern USSR.

Although we were waiting for you with great enthusiasm and the warmest feelings of hospitality and friendship, and were also aware of the importance of your visit to delve deeply in our exchanges and develop our relations, we understand your need to return to your country immediately.

Many efforts were undertaken to organize the program in all its details, but we do not consider it lost time as we expect the visit will take place as soon as circumstances allow it.

We would like to do something to help the Soviet people in repairing the damages caused by the earthquake. Perhaps, many workers from various areas of the USSR will go to that zone to do construction work. We could also select a construction contingent from Cuba and send them so they can participate in that task. This could constitute a new form of international solidarity in which even small countries, such as Cuba, could participate. This would be worthy of the spirit of more humane relations among the peoples you are fighting so much for in your untiring struggle for peace.

Your speech at the United Nations has had a great impact. I am glad that at least that important objective of your trip has been accomplished.

Fraternally,

Fidel Castro Ruz, Havana, 8 December 1988.

Future Visit Welcomed

FL0812161388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1335 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Following the remarks of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Komplektov, Comrade Jorge Gomez Barata, section chief of the DOR [Department of Revolutionary Orientation] of the PCC Central Committee, addressed those present on behalf of the leadership of the press center installed at the Habana Libre Hotel.

[Begin Gomez recording] At the news conference, we want to express our most sincere condolences to the Soviet people, especially to the Armenian people. We are certain that the damages caused by this natural disaster will be taken care of soon.

At the same time, we want to stress that as soon as adequate conditions are present, we will receive Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in our fatherland with the same enthusiasm and the same joy with which our people had prepared for this visit. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Castro Comments on Integration, Foreign Debt

PA0812141188 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 3 Dec 88 pp 4, 10

[Article by Rebeca Lizarraga R. and Maribel Gutierrez M.]

[Text] In a meeting with Mexican left-wing leaders, Fidel Castro yesterday said that his visit was motivated by a desire to encourage the integration of the countries in the region, without any exclusions. Castro said: "I would

even be willing to talk to Pinochet if he wanted to sit down and talk. Duarte and I could not be further apart, and yet we have been here together."

The Cuban president met today with left-wing legislators, governors, intellectuals, and leaders. He also addressed an unidentified group of businessmen.

Castro ate with intellectuals of various inclinations, including Sergio Mendez Arceo, Jose Luis Cuevas, Jorge Carpizo, Juan Jose Arreola, and Jaime Sabines. Castro made no political statements during this encounter.

The meeting with the left-wing leaders began at approximately 1700 at the Cuban Embassy and lasted for over 2 and ½ hours. At the meeting, Castro said his presence in Mexico showed that times have changed because U.S. imperialism can no longer determine who does or does not attend an event such as Carlos Salinas de Gortari's presidential inauguration.

Fidel Castro made no comment on Mexico's domestic political situation. He did say that Mexico is experiencing an interesting phenomenon that he fully respects.

Castro also predicted that the Latin American nations may form a common front to find solutions to the foreign debt and other regional problems. Regarding the foreign debt, he reiterated that it is unpayable, adding that back in 1985 the countries with the greatest debt should have acted more decisively and declared their payments suspended. This, he said, would have forced the annulment of the foreign debt.

Castro stated that Washington does not want the countries in the region to form a group. However, based on his meetings over the past several days with the leaders of Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, he said "there is political willingness, not for immediate integration, but for beginning movement toward forming a common Latin American front."

Castro pointed out that 1985 would have been the best time for the debtor countries to jointly face their creditors because at this time the problem had been thoroughly explained and the countries with international financial capital were not properly equipped to confront a debtors' rebellion. Castro added that the problems predicted in 1985 have become a reality in recent years and the burden of the foreign debt is now also criticized because of its social impact.

Castro added that, psychologically, 1985 would have been the most appropriate time for the Latin American debtor countries to resort to the tactic of a joint suspension of payments. This would have forced the creditor countries to annul the debt. Castro noted that, although international financial organizations have become stronger in the last 3 years, Latin America must do everything possible to prevent an outflow and draining of capital. If this capital drain were eliminated, Castro said, we could invest ample resources into our nations' development.

Referring to Latin America's current situation, Castro stated that the need to fight poverty is a common element uniting all countries in the region.

Castro stated in an address to an audience of over 100 members of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party [PFCRN], the Popular Socialist Party, the Mexican Socialist Party, the Humanist Party, the Socialist Revolution Party [PRS], the Critical Point Revolutionary Organization, and the Democratic Current that Marxism is a valid force. He denied that it is experiencing a crisis. He noted that crises arise depending on how Marxism is interpreted.

Castro added that no one in Cuba has any doubts about Marxism's creative power or about how to implement Marxism in a country. Castro recognized that the construction of socialism in Cuba presented flaws, but he maintained that these were being corrected.

Furthermore, Castro praised Mexico's foreign policy and stressed the importance of expressing solidarity with Mexico, as Mexico has served to house all Latin Americans without preference.

Castro recalled that exactly 32 years ago on 2 December a group of Cuban revolutionaries who had plotted against Batista left Mexico. The Mexican Government treated them with respect despite their conspiracy against Batista, because Mexico felt that although the conspiracy technically violated Mexican law, it did not constitute either a political or moral violation.

At the end of the meeting, PRS Secretary General Alejandro Gascon Mercado said that Castro's visit was of strategic importance for the Latin American nations' fight against imperialism and for prospective progress toward the integration of the countries in the region. Gascon commented that Castro's meeting with the left-wing parties fully respected Castro's relations with the Mexican Government, adding that Castro had not come to discuss Mexican political issues. Instead, issues of importance to Latin America and the world were discussed.

PFCRN Federal Deputy Enrique Rojas Bernal, member of the deputy chamber's Foreign Relations Commission, explained that the meeting with the left-wing organizations was set up between the time Castro left his vehicle in front of the Legislative Palace and the time he was seated at the section reserved for the foreign statesmen invited to Carlos Salinas de Gortari's presidential inauguration.

4-Day 'Moncada-88' Military Exercise Ends

FL0812172288 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] On Wednesday in Santa Clara, Villa Clara, Division General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, member of the PCC Politburo and first vice minister of the FAR, presided over the meeting closing the "Moncada 1-88-2" exercise, which took place in the territory for 4 days. The meeting analyzed objectively the achievements and difficulties of the exercise.

Cultural Protocol Signed With Uganda

FL0812173888 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] A cultural protocol between Cuba and the Republic of Uganda has been signed in our capital in the areas of culture, sports, radio, and television. (Maumpe Mugwana), vice minister of information of Uganda, and Miguel Brugueras, vice foreign minister of Cuba, signed the document which provides for the exchange of study plans, programs, textbooks, and educational publications.

Guyanese Government Values Cuban Cooperation

FL0812165488 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Guyana's Prime Minister Hamilton Green has said that the government highly values the cooperation that Cuba has given his country. Mr Green also expressed confidence that this cooperation will expand in medicine, food, and culture. He was quoted in a recent publication of the Cuban weekly newspaper GRANMA. The newspaper carried a special write-up on Guyana under the headline "Cooperation Without Dependency."

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Television Channel Dispute Referred to ITU

FL2311170288 Bridgetown CANA in English 2039 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, Nov 22, CANA—A dispute between Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines over use of television channel nine has been referred to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) after Caribbean Community ministers responsible for telecommunications failed to resolve the matter during a meeting in Grenada last week, officials reported here Tuesday.

The dispute has dragged on for nearly two years, and began when the state-run Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation Television Service in Barbados switched from channel three to channel nine, despite protests from the privately-owned St. Vincent and the Grenadines Television (SVG-TV) which had been using the channel since 1975.

Citizens in St Vincent and the Grenadines have been reporting interference by the signals of Barbados CBC since the change.

Officials in Kingstown said that the Vincentian delegation to the Grenada meeting raised the issue and found some support from several countries, including Dominica, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The officials added that no solution was reached, and the matter was referred to the ITU, an international telecommunications regulating body based in Geneva.

Dominican Republic

Jorge Blanco Told To Establish Defense

FL0712204588 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0937 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Judge Juan Maria Severino has asked the district attorney to notify former President Salvador Jorge Blanco to choose lawyers for his defense. Dr Severino issued a writ to Dr Alexis Joaquin Castillo in which he is requested to notify Dr Jorge Blanco to appear at the Seventh Criminal Court to set up his defense.

The document issued by Judge Severino states the need for the former head of state to choose the lawyers who will help him with his defense. The district attorney is responsible for presenting Jorge Blanco's request to the judge of the Seventh Criminal Court.

The writ issued by Dr Severino explains the judicial proceeding on the former head of state—including the sentence against him and opposition to the same.

Blanco's Innocence Defended

FL0712201288 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0940 GMT 7 Dec

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Dr Juan Demostenes Cotes Morales argued a strong defense for the supposed innocence of Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco. The former secretary of the interior and police denied that Jorge Blanco diverted funds from the Armed Forces. Cotes Morales said that in 1985 the former President gave the Armed Forces over 50 million pesos. Dr Cotes Morales said that those credits came out of the 1401 funds [not further identified].

[Cotes Morales, in progress] "The Armed Forces ended up without enough funds on 15 September, and the current expenses of the institution total 516,000 pesos monthly; I want you to you to know—it is right here—that in 1985, and just for 1985, the government had to give the Armed Forces an increase and exceptional budget entries [partidas] for 57,717,951 pesos. This was only for materials and supplies. Jorge Blanco gave this; it has been determined that Jorge Blanco wrote the check

and assigned the funds. It is infantile to tell this nation, at this point, that Jorge Blanco and his people took the papers. That is a lie! That is absurd!"

Cotes Morales said that when the Jorge Blanco administration left, the Armed Forces were not audited.

[Cotes Morales] "All the departments have papers, my friend. He could not have taken, for example, those papers, or the copies from the Armed Forces. No one who wasn't a military person could have taken them. Did they audit the Armed Forces? No. They did do an investigation, not an audit! The correct thing to do is an audit."

Grenada

Prime Minister's Condition 'Satisfactory'

FL0912002188 Bridgetown CANA in English 2256 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Dec 8, CANA—An aide of Grenada's ailing Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said Thursday that he has enjoyed a "satisfactory night" at the island's general hospital in St Georges. Special advisor to the prime minister, Albert Xavier, said that Blaize's condition remained satisfactory but did not elaborate on the nature of his illness.

Xavier said that contingency plans were being made to fly the prime minister to the United States in the event that further treatment would become necessary. During the course of Wednesday, Xavier made preparations for Blaize to be flown to the Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington.

The Grenadian leader visited the U.S. hopital in September.

Xavier denied reports that the prime minister had been operated on at the hospital for a "blocked intestine."

After visiting Walter Reed Hospital in early 1985, Blaize told reporters on his return that he would have to return there on a regular basis for radiology treatment for "a prostate gland disorder."

Xavier reported that Blaize was "very much" still in charge of running the government and had not given instructions for his number two, External Affairs Minister Ben Jones, to take the oath of acting prime minister.

The executive of the ruling New National Party was in session Thursday discussing the prime minister's illness and preparations for this weekend's annual convention.

Resisting Hospitalization

FL0812174288 Bridgetown CANA in English 1636 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] St. Georges, Grenada, Dec 8, CANA—Grenada's Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, who underwent an operation here on Tuesday for a blocked intestine, is resisting moves to have him flown to a United States Army hospital for further medical treatment, officials close to the 70 year old leader reported Thursday. "We have put everything on hold for the time being", one official told CANA.

Aides at Blaize's botanical gardens office had spent most of Wednesday making the necessary arrangements with Walter Reed Hospital in Washington to have him admitted as a patient. One official who asked not to be named said the arrangements were made on the advice of the prime minister's own personal doctor.

He spoke of the Grenadian leader resisting the move on the grounds that he did not want to pay another visit to the U.S. hospital so soon again. "The decision not to go was made by the prime minister and he alone at exactly 4 pm (Wednesday)", he said. "The doctor is trying to talk him into going but you know he is a very stubborn old man," he added.

Blaize, a frequent visitor to the hospital was last there in September for his regular check-up. Shortly after taking office in December 1984, it was discovered that Blaize was suffering from a prostate gland disorder and he was taken to the U.S. hospital for intensive radiology treatment.

Officials said that the plan of the aides was to have Blaize fly out on BWIA's 0700 hours (local time) flight Wednesday.

Agrees To Undergo Surgery

FL0812142288 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Grenadian Prime Minister Herbert Blaize travels to Washington today for treatment, including surgery, [as heard] at the Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington. Mr Blaize has had long-standing problems moving about, sometimes requiring a wheel chair.

He apparently took a turn for the worst during the past week so that his weekly address to the nation last Friday night was read by Agriculture and External Affairs Minister Ben Jones.

Mr Blaize did not make his usual trip to Carriacou, which he does usually on the weekends, and he missed a meeting of Parliament for the first time on Monday, as well as the weekly meeting of Cabinet on Tuesday. On Tuesday afternoon, he entered the hospital for tests.

Bishop Murder Convicts on Hunger Strike

FL0812162688 Bridgetown CANA in English 1547 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] St. Georges, Grenada, Dec. 8, CANA—Nine of 17 former military and political leaders here, convicted of the 1983 murder of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several of his supporters, are on hunger strike protesting prison conditions and alleged beatings at the hands of prison wardens, the defence attorney for the group announced. Ian Ramsay, distinguished Jamaican

lawyer and head of the dozen lawyers defending the 17, told the court Wednesday that the hunger strike would last three days and was designed to highlight their grievances as well as back their demands for a probe into charges of severe beatings by prison warders in November. "Our clients are in a state of grave tension. As soon as the court leaves, their conditions get worse," Ramsay told the three-member appeals court.

The court is hearing cases of the 17—14 of whom were sentenced to death for Bishop's murder. The other three receiving prison terms totalling 120 years for their part in the October 1983 incident in which the Grenada Army crushed a popular uprising against a military coup d'etat, which ousted Bishop and installed in his place, a military junta.

The coup paved the way for the first American invasion of a Commonwealth Caribbean country, and effectively led to the end of a four-year experiment in fundamental social and economic reform undertaken by the New Jewel Movement (NJM) which Bishop led to power in a coup on March 13, 1979.

According to Ramsay, those on hunger strike include Bishop's former deputy and finance minister, Bernard Coard, Coard's wife Phyllis, former junior sports minister, Dave Bartholomew, and former ambassador to Cuba, Leon Cornwall.

Another defence lawyer, Howard Hamilton, told the court that both Cornwall and Bartholomew require treatment, claiming that Cornwall's back was scarred from beatings with a chain while Bartholomew had been spitting blood.

Appeals court president, J.O.F. Haynes of Guyana Monday suggested to the defence that they try to persuade Prisons Commissioner Lionel Maloney of Barbados to permit a physician of the appelant's choice to examine them in the presence of the prison's own doctor. Defence sources said that among the two doctors nominated by them was Barry McBarnette, brother of Colville McBarnette, one of the 14 sentenced to death.

But Haynes told the defence that Commissioner Maloney had told him there were no beatings, although some convicts had been punished for breach of discipline.

The sitting also heard some sharp exchanges between defence lawyer Delano Harrison of Jamaica and the court, with Harrison moving to amend one of the eight original grounds of appeal, which claims the court was unconstitutional and illegal. Harrison is trying to amend this to read that the court was unconstitutional in that it was not an independent and impartial court established by law in accordance with the Constitution of Grenada. But the appeals court has already ruled that the system exists on the basis of the doctrine of necessity.

The Bishop regime pulled Grenada out of the east Caribbean court system, and set up its own during its tenure in office between 1979 and 1983.

Venezuelan Claims on Smuggling Case Rejected

FL0812180888 Bridgetown CANA in English 1554 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] St. Georges, Grenada, Dec 8, CANA—Grenada's External Affairs Minister Ben Jones has brushed aside claims from Venezuela that its executive body cannot direct the judicary to speed up a case involving six Grenadians facing smuggling charges there. "I don't accept that the political government cannot do anything", he told CANA.

Jones said that Grenada had the same system of separation of powers, but in a situation where foreigners were concerned, the judiciary could be asked by government to "get on with it."

The Venezuelan Embassy in Grenada on Monday issued a statement that its executive was not permitted to put political pressure on the judiciary to have the case expedited. It said the judiciary would eventually make its decision on the case.

But Jones said that the Government of Venezuela had a duty to ask the judiciary to get on with the case since ultimately it was the political directorate that had to answer the international community for whatever happens. Jones did not say what action would be taken by his government but said that if the situation continued Grenada would have to consider that "Venezuela is not friendly to us as they say they are."

Six Grenadians were detained on the island of Margarita in September on charges of attempting to smuggle out goods on the Venezuelan negative list.

The Grenadian Government and other parties have been angered by reports reaching the island that one of the four women arrested had been raped by guards, and that the smuggling case, which had been transferred to the mainland, had been sent back to Margarita with no date set for hearing.

Jones said the rape report was being investigated by Grenada's charge d'affairs in Venezuela.

Haiti

Army Responds to Letter on Imprisoned Soldiers

FL0812204588 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpts] For the past few weeks now, people have been protesting the detention of several soldiers—among them Patrick Beauchard—at the national penitentiary. These soldiers are accused of plotting against the military government headed by Lieutenant General Prosper Avril. [passage omitted]

Last week we learned that these soldiers had begun a hunger strike to protest their continued imprisonment. They are demanding to be sent to court.

The situation was later normalized after the commanding officer of the national penitentiary held talks with the strikers.

We went to the Haitian Armed Forces General Headquarters to contact the authorities to get more information on this matter. A military source told us that last 17 November the Haitian Human Rights League sent a letter signed by its president, (Joseph Maxi), to the commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces, Major General Herard Abraham. In the letter the League asked that these prisoners be sent before a court, in keeping with the code of military justice.

In an answer dated 6 December 1988, the second bureau of the General Headquarters declared that it too was very concerned about this matter. [passage omitted] They are studying the matter. They have formed an investigating committee [komisyon de rechech] to cast light on the case of these enlisted men locked up at the national penitentiary. [passage omitted]

After the committee finishes its investigation, it is going to issue orders; the general public will also be informed of the results of the investigation.

This letter to (Joseph Maxi), president of the Haitian Human Rights League, was signed by Roland Chavannes, G-2.

Release of Soldiers Sought

FL0812201788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] General Prosper Avril's government has decreed the week of 5-10 December as human rights week. Many organizations are wondering how significant this week can be since there are still many acts showing a lack of respect for human rights going on in Haiti, and acts have been committed for which no reparation has been made. They especially point out the business of the soldiers locked up in prison since 15 October, who have never yet been taken to court.

In this connection, the Federation of Neighborhood Committees and Associations [FEDKA] has taken a stand, in a press release, in favor of these soldiers. FEDKA asks the general why the soldiers who were on the side of the Haitian people are being kept in prison. FEDKA asks that these soldiers be released before the masses get angry, and it asks all popular organizations fighting on the side of the Haitian people to take action in order to get these 17 September movement soldiers, who are locked up in jail and who have never been taken before a judge, released.

Marche a Terre Monument Inaugurated

FL0812200388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Report by Les Cayes correspondent Pierre Michel Bolivar]

[Excerpts] The big news in Les Cayes today, 6 December, was the inauguration of the Marche a Terre monument, which reminds us of a particular page in Haitian history. During the American occupation, a number of peasants in southern Haiti held a demonstration to demand their rights; there was a massacre, history tells us. The toll was very heavy. Many people died and many were wounded. [passage omitted]

Groups from many other places—such as L'Estere and Desdunes—had come to attend the inauguration of the Marche a Terre monument. [passage omitted]

There were many speakers. They reviewed the events that resulted in the Marche a Terre incident. [passage omitted]

We point out that there was no school in Les Cayes today, but all other activities were normal. [passage omitted]

Priest Explains Arrest During Commemoration

FL0712214388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the massacre that took place in Marche a Terre in 1929, diverse activities had been planned in Les Cayes. There were lectures the day before yesterday, and a cultural festival was scheduled for last night. However, the Haitian Army decided to forbid the festival because, according to the Army, permission had not been requested early enough.

And that's not all. Many people had gathered in Les Cayes. Peasants had come from all over Haiti to commemorate this event. And last night, the Army in Les Cayes arrested Father (Reynald Clerisme) and another citizen, whose name is (Harry), while (Harry) was taking pictures on the public square in Les Cayes. The Army arrested them because, claims the Army, they had not asked for permission to take pictures.

They were arrested at around 1720 yesterday afternoon, but they were released some 30 minutes later; Father (Clerisme) explained over Radyo Men Kontre [local Catholic Church radio station] in Les Cayes why he had been arrested.

[Begin (Clerisme) recording] I am happy to be able to talk now, because everybody was probably worried. What happened is that as (Harry Abel) and I were passing by the cathedral, in the street, he was taking a few pictures. As he was going to take a picture of the soldiers in front there, they told him not to take pictures. He stopped. He didn't take the picture. Then they told him to get out and to give them the camera. He did so.

Despite this, they began to get rough with him, to hit him in the foot and poke him in the back with their rifle butts, and so on—and they told him to move on.

At that point I intervened to say they did not have a right to hit him, since he had already agreed to move on. So they took us to the police station. When we got there, they asked for our licenses and kept them as identification. Then they took us to the barracks.

When we got to the barracks, we saw the district commander, who asked what happened. The soldiers explained that we had been taking pictures. The commander then ordered them to release us and give us back our licenses, but to keep the film in the camera. [passage omitted] They gave the camera back, but kept the film. [passage omitted]

While I was at the barracks, since at the police station the soldiers had been saying that the people who had come to participate in the Marche a Terre ceremony had come to (?effect a) Marche a Terre, I asked the commander what was going to happen tomorrow—because I am on, and with, the committee that is organizing the Marche a Terre ceremony. He told me that there was no problem whatsoever with tomorrow—that it was just that tonight there would be too many people on the square (?for them to be able) to provide security, but that there would be no problem for tomorrow, that all the activities planned could be carried out normally; and he guaranteed that everything would unfold normally.

Thus, if people are worried, I ask them to calm down. Tomorrow we will hold (?a) demonstration (?in) Marche a Terre in memory of the peasants who fell on 6 December 1929 and all the peasants who have fallen throughout Haiti. [end recording]

This morning, there will be a church service at the cathedral in Les Cayes at 0800. Then, after the mass, a procession will leave the cathedral for Marche a Terre, where there will be a big ceremony. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent in Les Cayes, whom we contacted this morning, informed us that military vehicles have begun patrolling.

MDN Pessimistic About Socioeconomic Situation

FL0812203988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpts] On the occasion of human rights week, decreed by the military government, the Mobilization for National Development [MDN] says that it notes with uneasiness that a persistent and general deterioration in the country's socioeconomic situation is preventing the Haitian people's most minimal needs from being satisfied. [passage omitted]

The government's effort to demilitarize quickly lost its thrust. The political class rejected the proposed electoral college. The economic program—which is essentially just a plan to build housing, with a few fiscal and monetary ramifications—has met with almost total indifference from public opinion. [passage omitted]

MDN says: The extremists believe (?their dream of a confrontation is coming closer); and those with big fortunes—the very wealthy—would like for there to be an American occupation. Neither side pays any attention to the lessons of past history, nor to the international constraints of the 20th century. [passage omitted]

People cannot see the future clearly. In order for a democratic government to be trusted by the majority of people in Haiti and to be given the international support necessary to free the country from paralysis and satisfy the Haitian people's basic (?needs), political discourse must be in keeping with the principles, with organization, and with the consensus. While waiting for this option—or rather, this conversion—says the MDN, it fears (?that worse things might happen).

Organizations Launch Cost-of-Living Campaign

FL0712225788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Diverse organizations such as the National Alliance of People's Organizations [ANOP] (?and) the (?organizations) for assembly and defense of the peasants yesterday made their voices heard in commemoration of the 59th anniversary of the peasants massacre in March a Terre. In memory of these peasants, the aforementioned organizations also announced the beginning, as of yesterday, 6 December, of a campaign against the high cost of living, marketplace taxes, and repressive acts being committed by rural police agents against the rural population.

They also demanded that section chiefs and assistant section chiefs involved in acts of banditry against peasants be fired and brought to trial. They asked, too, that the price of flour, sugar, kerosene, soap, herring, matches, and certain tools such as hoes, (?sickles), pickaxes, and machetes be lowered, along with the prices of seeds, fertilizers, cement, and tin roofing sheets. They also asked that the government eliminate the marketplace card and the tax on livestock taken to market, because, they say, the peasants are already paying too much tax.

Pro-Peasant Movement Issues Statement

FL0712223088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpts] In Hinche, in the central plateau, 150 members of Asad, a movement working with peasants in the central plateau, made their voices heard on the occasion of 6 December.

[Correspondent (Jean Clerveau)] Some 150 members of Asad, which is the Association of Group Leaders for Development [Asosyasyon Animate Pou Devlopman] that is holding its national assembly in Papaye, has issued a statement on the occasion of the inauguration of the Marche a Terre monument, which they say symbolizes the struggle of the small peasant farmers in Haiti. They say this occasion serves to remind them of the complicity of the Americans and the Haitian Government when they got together to massacre the small peasant farmers of Marche a Terre who were demanding their rights. [passage omitted]

They say that, as a group that works with peasants in the four corners of Haiti, they are continuing to suffer this same situation—Labadie, Jean-Rabel, Marche a Terre, (Danty), and Abrio—always because of the complicity of the Haitian Government and foreign governments. Since the only hope for a better life lies in organization, Asad sounds the conch shell to assembly and calls on peasants in the four corners of Haiti to assemble and form a single bloc to defend their rights today.

This is (Jean Clerveau) in Hinche for Radio Soleil.

Konakom Renews Commitment to Human Rights

FL0712220788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the declaration of human rights, Konakom, which is the National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements, renews the commitment it made at the Thorland [area in the Carrefour section of Port-au-Prince] Congress to build, together with the Haitian people, a society in which people show respect for one another. Konakom salutes the government initiative to celebrate this important anniversary.

The week of defense for human rights is necessary to remind General Prosper Avril that the Haitian people are asking for a policy that is clear on a number of matters, such as the fact that the peasants throughout Haiti need security. In order to avoid a new Marche a Terre, Jean-Rabel, or (Danty), the government must fire all the macoute section chiefs who are paralyzing the country.

[Konakom says:] If you really want to celebrate the declaration of human rights, you cannot keep the 17 September movement soldiers in jail without a trial. There is no article in the Constitution, the penal code, or the code of military justice that can justify the illegal detention you are guilty of at present.

It is not possible for those responsible for the 29 November massacre and for 17 September to be free, while criminal macoutes haul fighters for democracy such as Dr Charles Manigat, (Max Montreuil), and Sylvio Claude into court.

The new investigating committee must seek out the people responsible for 29 November, and not the causes of the massacre or the circumstances surrounding it. Otherwise the investigation will be a masquerade, just like Namphy's. This decree is not at all correct. [sentence as heard]

Don't forget that you (?will) not have the support or trust of a national majority if your actions are not based on the Constitution of 1987, if big macoutes are guiding the government from behind the scenes and waiting for an occasion to reappear on the scene.

That was the message Konakom issued on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the declaration of human rights.

Fraternity of Priests Issues Message

FL0712220088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Message issued by the Fraternity of Priest of the South on the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the 1929 incidents in Marche a Terre]

[Excerpts] Message from the Fraternity of Priests of the South [Fratenite Pe Nan Sid] on the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the massacre of small peasant farmers in Marche a Terre by the U.S. Army:

We, the Fraternity of Priests of the South, who wish to honor the commitment to the poor and to Jesus Christ that we made, and who are working in many parishes in which a majority of the population consists of landless peasants, stand at the side of all the small peasant farmers struggling today so that their blood will not continue to be shed and so that their blood already shed—in Jean-Rabel, in (Danty), in (Casal), on La Gonave, at Don Bosco [name as heard], etc—will not have been shed in vain. [passage omitted]

We heartily salute and declare our solidarity with all the small peasant farmers struggling against taxes that bring them nothing, against the high cost of living, against around-the-clock repression by section chiefs, and against the macoutes that the Justice Department [lajistis] overtly tolerates.

We also express our solidarity with and to all the popular organizations continuing the struggle at the side of the small peasant farmers and the workers, especially those who have whole-heartedly participated in organizing the Marche a Terre celebration. We refer to SAJ [Solidarity Among Youth], MUPAC [Movman Inite Pep Okay, Unity Movement of the People of Les Cayes], and the committee of solidarity with small peasant farmers. [passage omitted]

We heartily salute all the people and organizations supporting the struggle of small peasant farmers everywhere on earth, especially in Latin America. At the same

time, we denounce all the attempts at intimidation that the Haitian Army, its masters, and its advisers have set up with a view to obstructing this important event and trampling the rights of the small peasant farmers. We denounce the arbitrary arrest by the macoutes in olive green of agronomist (Harry) and Father (Clerisme) in front of the cathedral in Les Cayes on the afternoon of 5 December. We also denounce the criminal acts committed by a group of soldiers against a young student on the square in Les Cayes, particularly during a week that the military government has decreed human rights week. The soldiers stomped on this young man, beating him with the butts of rifles that the Americans are continuing to send them so that they can repress the children of the Haitian masses.

We also denounce, in the name of the God of life, all the diabolical plans and crooked wheelings and dealings that the imperialists are setting up—sometimes, unfortunately, with the complicity of certain church bigshots—with a view to destroying our agriculture and, once they have finished killing off the Creole pigs, destroying the cultural richness of our people; corrupting the Haitian people—especially the young—with drugs, charity food, contraband, hand-me-down clothing [pepe], a hand-me-down university, hand-me-down churches such as the Mormons, hand-me-down coups d'etat, and hand-me-down elections.

We also denounce all the plotting going on with a view to putting military bases in Tiburon or Mole Saint-Nicolas.

We will not conclude before we say to all of them—to all the small peasant farmers whose lands and property the big landowners and bigshots are stealing by force; to all the young small peasant farmers wandering the streets; to all the small peasant farmers who are in the Army and who want to continue to stand at the side of the Haitian people; to all the wives of small peasant farmers suffering everywhere; to all the small peasant farmers who sell their day's labor to the big landowners for a pittance; and to all the small peasant farmers being sent back from Miami, Santo Domingo, and other places—best wishes, and hang in there [bon kouraj] in the battle to have truth, justice, and love prevail, and peace reign, in Haiti.

Best of luck [bon kouraj] in setting up proper organizations to carry out effective actions. Our force lies in organization. Organization or death! O, God of life, stand beside us!

It is the Fraternity of Priests of the South that writes this message on the occasion of the celebration in Marche a Terre.

Families Complain of Rising Cost of Living

FL0812201488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Families are complaining all over Haiti because of the constantly rising cost of living. The price of rice, beans, oil, and many other things has risen. This business of sugar is one of the things causing the greatest problems. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified vendor] Even the oil. We used to buy a case of oil for $22. We are now paying $30. It has gone up. [end recording]

New Port-au-Prince Mayor Takes 'Action'

FL0812205888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The new mayor of Port-au-Prince in action! A communique from Port-au-Prince City Hall announces the suppression of the so-called security service. Also, Port-au-Prince communal administration employees, and employees of the metropolitan collection-of-solid-residues service appointed by the communal committee are informed that, effective as of the publication of this communique, the services of those who have not been confirmed in their posts by 9 December 1988 by means of a letter from the current communal committee of Port-au-Prince are no longer required. However, this does not apply to garbage truck drivers and all roads and thoroughfares department workers.

Organizations Protest Toxic Waste Problem

FL0812201388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Report by Gonaives correspondent (Jean Bouchereau Joseph)]

[Excerpts] The news in Gonaives is dominated by the problem of the toxic waste that has been lying on the Sedren wharf since 31 December 1987, for almost a full year now. Many organizations, such as JOC [Christian Workers Youth] and TKL [the grassroots church], are to this day continuing to protest this big scourge. [passage omitted]

Yesterday morning, we ourselves toured the Sedren wharf. We saw many dead goats and found many people in the area who were having respiratory difficulties and who had many big skin lesions. [passage omitted]

Also, the Justice Department is topsy turvy in Gonaives, where (Hilda Coq), the deputy representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor, told Justice Minister Gilbert Austin that all the judges in the Artibonite Valley sold their rulings to the highest bidder. This statement caused a big fuss. Judge (Emmanuel Laurent), for one, has reacted. He says he does not agree with what the representative said, because (?she) made no exceptions; he is giving the representative 3 days in which to retract (?her) statements as far as he himself is concerned. If there is no retraction, he will initiate legal proceedings for slander. Thus it looks as if trouble could break out between representative (Coq) and Judge Laurent.

This is (Jean Bouchereau Joseph), Radio Soleil, Gonaives.

Investigation of Court Conflict Conducted

FL0712225088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Our correspondent in Mirebalais, (Etienne Elizaire), informs us that there currently exists a big problem between the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor and the examining magistrate at the civil court.

[(Elizaire)] The courts have never as yet functioned properly, after 17 September, particularly in Mirebalais, where we find that the examining magistrate is the acting doyen of the court. Why are things not functioning properly? Because there is a quarrel ongoing between the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor and the interim doyen of the court.

The Ministry of Justice has understood that there is a problem and has sent two inspectors to conduct an investigation. We think this investigation will yield good results for this court.

Also, the deputy judge for the court of conciliation, Mr (Andre Saintil), has declared, upon being sworn in, that if the regular judge turns out to not be a serious person as he is supposed to be, he, (Saintil), will resign—because he will not allow himself to get caught up in any crooked wheeling and dealing.

This is RTNH, (Elizaire Etienne) [name as heard], central [words indistinct].

Formation of Vigilance Brigade Announced

FL0712225488 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The UNDDH [National Union for the Defense of Democracy and Human Rights] has issued a press release stating its position on the insecurity and violence in Haiti. The UNDDH has addressed an open letter to the ministers of justice and interior in which the party denounces the acts of banditry that have been occurring in Carrefour [area in south Port-au-Prince] for some time now. Because of this the UNDDH, acting in concert with the population of Carrefour, has decided to form a vigilance brigade, named Keep-An-Eye-On-Them Brigade [Brigad Veye Yo]. This brigade's mission is to capture all thieves caught in the act. The brigade will arrest them and turn them over to the police, the Army, and the Justice Department.

The UNDDH asks that the brigade stand watches, because this insecurity business has gone too far.

The UNDDH also asks that the Justice Department, the Army and the police, and the military government support this movement, with a view to putting a stop to the insecurity in Haiti.

The letter is signed by Jocelyn Beauchard [party president] and by Eng (Duperat, Gaston).

Jamaica

Seaga, Manley Urge Supporters To Avoid Violence

FL0812143188 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga and opposition leader Michael Manley have met for talks aimed at preventing violence between supporters of their two rival parties. Last August, Mr Seaga and Mr Manley signed an agreement which established a political code of conduct for party supporters. The two politicians yesterday reaffirmed their support for the accord and urged supporters to obey its provisions.

Trinidad and Tobago

Opposition Says Government Moving to Right

FL0812172088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1411 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 8, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's two-year administration is lurching towards right-wing ideology, according to opposition senator, Winston Moore. Moore, speaking during debate on the imposition of a fee for Trinidadian and Tobagonian university students, said the right-wing side of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) was taking over.

"A time of financial stringencies in higher education such as the one we have already entered challenges our priorities robustly," Moore said echoing statements made earlier by his colleague, People's National Movement (PNM) senator, Donna Prowell. The PNM opposition benches are contending that, in hard times, a government is forced to choose its priorities and that government cuts in health and education show either a lack of a philosophical base or disregard for equal opportunities.

"Unless we take care, however, this government (is), in my opinion, uncontrollably lurching towards right-wing ideological policies, economic policies," Moore said. "Unless we take care, the government will modify our higher education in haste so that it becomes still more unequal."

Moore accused education minister, Senator Clive Pantin, of giving a "calculating rationalisation" of the fee system government plans to introduce. Moore said a "hidden agenda" of International Monetary Fund (IMF) styled policies was beginning to show in the NAR administration.

The system will mean that Trinidadian and Tobagonian students would have to contribute up to ten per cent of their academic fees, previously paid for totally by government, at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Both Moore and Prowell argued that the PNM administration, regardless of any other problems it might have had, had a philisophical underpinning reflected in policies such as free education and health. "My party...stuck, perhaps too much, to the principle of social justice," Moore said.

Moore said that, at its very basic level, a principle of social justice meant economic progress should bring with it corresponding social progress allowing all classes of society to have a fair share in any increased national income. ""We are not ashamed that we offered free education up to university level for all during the tenure of...PNM governments," Moore said.

This is the second time the PNM has levelled such charges at the National Alliance for Reconstruction formed under former PNM member, now Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson. The first such accusation came during the 1988 budget debate when PNM members described the lack of social welfare proposals as the only difference between the PNM and the NAR.

The PNM found some support for its stance from independent senators in the finely balanced upper house. Holding 15 seats and the PNM six, the ruling party needs to win over some of the nine independent senators to ensure passage of the cess or fee bill—which got easy passage in the government-controlled House of Representatives.

"Irrespective of what the economic situation may be, the government cannot relieve itself of certain responsibilities, among these health and education," Prowell said.

Independent Senator Dr. Ramesh Deosaran, a lecturer on the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies, agreed that there was waste on the campus but said that an overall look was needed at whether UWI was "delivering the goods." "Being on the campus, my own view is to stay there and see that the thing works, to help the government of the day achieve its objectives but to be partiotic enough to tell them when and where they're goisng wrong," Deosaran said.

PNM leader in Senate, Augustus Ramrekersingh, presented a list of eight demands to government if it was to get opposition support for the proposal. He suggested a cut in the fee to one third of the current rate proposed by government, that the cess be only a temporary measure until fuller university reforms are put in place, and that there be tax relief for the parents of students who have to seek bank loans to cover the proposed system.

Asked after the Senate sitting whether the calls for changes from both opposition and independent benches would lead to amendments by government before next week, Education Minister Pantin said this was not a decision he could take alone. "I'm certainly thinking about their contributions...we'll have to wait and see," Pantin told CANA.

Police Raid Black Muslim Headquarters

FL0312184988 Bridgetown CANA in English 1538 GMT 2 Dec 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 2, CANA—Seven teen people were arrested, including nine women, as the Trinidad police on Friday raided the headquarters of a Black Muslim group, which has publicly declared it will mount its own anti-crime war here. It was the second time in two weeks that police closed in on the Muslim centre on the outskirts of the capital, Port-of-Spain.

Nearly 200 police officers surrounded the St James headquarters of the religious sect around 3 a.m. and left five hours later after a search reportedly turned up firearms, ammunition, and drugs. Police told a news conference afterward that they had seized seven firearms, cocaine, and marijuana.

Acting police commissioner, Jules Bernard, presented four revolvers, two shotguns, and a rifle, as well as 228 rounds of ammunition, all of which he said were found on the premises during the raid. Bernard also said 37 rocks of cocaine and ten packs of marijuana had also been seized.

Spokesmen at the gates of the Jamaat-al-Muslimeen on Friday however insisted, as they did last time the area was raided, that nothing had been found on the premises. During the police operation Jamaat officials had trouble controlling some of their younger members, who were apparently ready to fight with the lawmen carrying out the search.

Reporters were allowed only as far as the entrance to the compound.

Two weeks ago, 34 muslims were held in a similar dawn raid at the Jamaat. Most of them are still facing charges for illegal possession of arms and ammunition and car theft. The raids have followed public statements by the Muslim group that they would deal themselves with crime in Trinidad and Tobago, particularly illegal drug dealers.

Police have swooped down recently on cars carrying young Muslim men and report seizing a number of homemade guns. The last such incident was on Wednesday night, when a 16-year-old Muslim was held with a homemade shotgun, police said.

On Thursday, police said five men who were gambling were allegedly shot by a group identifying itself as Muslims and, in a separate incident, another man was shot by a similar group who told him to keep out of the drugs trade.

Police said they are searching for two men, believed to be Muslims, in connection with these incidents. The victims have all been hospitalised.

Security Minister Comments

FL0312185088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1553 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 3, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's national security minister, Senator Herbert Atwell, has asserted that citizens will not be allowed to take the law into their hands. He made the comment hours after 17 Black Muslims were held on drug and arms possession charges following claims that they seized the items from drug dealers in vigilante operations.

"Every effort is being made by the police to curb the spate of lawlessness which is threatening to destroy our society," Atwell said in a statement to the House of Representatives.

The minister said that information reaching his ministry indicated that religious premises were being used as a "ruse" to harbour criminals for the commission of violent crimes in this country. "He cannot permit this to continue. No person...must take the law into (his) hands," Atwell said. "If he's aware of instances in which the law is not being observed, he has the responsibility to advise the authorities in order that they may take action."

Atwell pointed to some of the problems facing the local police force. He said that, whereas 111 unauthorized guns had been seized by police in 1987, the figure had gone up to 129 guns to date this year—indicating an increase on the amassing of illegal weapons.

Members of the Black Muslim Jamaat-al-Muslimeen community were held on Friday morning after police conducted an early morning search on the Jamaat headquarters in the surburban area of St James.

Police said they seized firearms, ammunition, other weapons, and drugs on the Jamaat premises. Jamaat officials, however, said they had, in turn, seized these items from drugs pushers in North West Trinidad.

"No one can be permitted to kidnap, shoot, or enter peoples premises under any pretext whatsoever," Atwell told the house. "No organisation must attempt to terrorise the public in this country. "The police operates within the rule of law and will continue its efforts to deal with the dastardly drugs situation in the country."

"They will do so in a lawful manner".

Atwell called for public and parliamentary support for "such action as the government will take not only to protect the citizens but the security of the state."

"We will not have a state within a state," Atwell told the house.

Salinas Meets Soviet Official, CNOP Officials

PA0712233088 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Report by Felipe Milpa; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] On 6 December, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari called for the active cooperation of professionals, the service industries, the business sector, and the people in general, to achieve the three national goals: democracy, development, and justice. By uniting the efforts of the government and society, he said, we may be able to reverse the fall in the living standards that has influenced its [not further specified] outlook and horizon so much:

[Salinas] "I am convinced that the welfare of all Mexicans constitutes a vital national interest and our most important challenge. With organization, work, effort, and the active participation of all of you, I'm sure we can overcome this tremendous challenge."

Earlier, President Salinas de Gortari insisted that we renew and reform—with prudence, imagination, and steadfastness—the procedures and process of organization and participation. He said we must begin to lead the people effectively and responsibly on issues and without short-term measures. However, this leadership must answer directly the demands of the people and their organizations:

[Salinas] "We must pledge to do much more. We must tackle new urban conditions decisively and change misery and dissatisfaction caused by existing problems and inequalities into passionate new efforts of cooperation and shared responsibilities."

Those were the president's remarks during a ceremony to greet the members of the National Confederation of Popular Organizations [CNOP]. At this meeting, CNOP leader Guillermo Fonseca Alvarez also commented on the three national agreements:

[Fonseca] "The success of those agreements not only depends on the government, but also on the responsible and committed participation of everybody; that is, political parties, civic organizations, and popular organizations."

Before the ceremony, President Salinas de Gortari met with Pulat Khabibullayev, Soviet deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. After the meeting the Soviet official commented on relations between Mexico and his country:

[Khabibullayev in Russian with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] "Our relations with Mexico will continue to grow and expand in all areas. I discussed this with the Mexican president. I am pleased that the degree of interaction between us is now very high, and we noted that our countries agree on many international issues."

He said Mexico's position on the foreign debt problem was the proper one.

He also announced that Salinas de Gortari had extended a special invitation to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to visit Mexico.

New Government, Future Plans Characterized

PA0812235288 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 3 Dec 88 p 3

[Report by Alberto Vieyra and Blanca Esthela Martinez]

[Excerpt] Government Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrio said last night that Carlos Salinas de Gortari's government will be one of concerted effort, harmony, and dialogue. There will be full respect for all individual and social rights.

Interviewed at a ceremony during which members of the diplomatic corps greeted President Salinas de Gortari, Gutierrez Barrios said that the dialogue established yesterday with the National Action Party can be considered the beginning of a more constructive relationship with the political parties.

Gutierrez Barrios announced that a number of multipartisan meetings will be held soon to discuss the Federal Electoral Code. The opinions of all political parties will be heard during these meetings.

The new government secretary strongly denied that his presence at the head of the Government Secretariat could forestall the proper development of relations between the government and the political parties. "As governor of Veracruz I had good relations with political parties, social groups, and the people in general," Gutierrez Barrios said.

The same guidelines will be applied with regard to freedom of expression, which will be channeled within the strict framework of the law and taking into consideration all social and individual rights.

"It is necessary for all Mexicans to have absolute freedom of expression. Today, criticism constitutes the best mirror for the government to see itself; government officials will view criticism in this way," Gutierrez Barrios told reporters.

The same permanent dialogue will be established with all the political parties, the government secretary said, adding that the dialogue will be held on the basis of a concerted effort and respect for the Constitution. "I am optimistic about the dialogue and what can be achieved. I have known the leaders of the opposition political parties for many years and I think I can be a good spokesman for them." Gutierrez Barrios added.

What we are doing today is strengthening the climate of freedom in the country and democracy throughout the government, Gutierrez Barrios concluded. [passage omitted]

President Annouces Additional Appointments

PA0912062188 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 3 Dec 88 p 1

[Summary] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari announced new government appointments on 2 December. The new appointments include the following posts: span

PEMEX Director	Francisco Rojas
Mexican Social Security Institute	Ricardo Garcia Sainz
Bank of Mexico General Manager	Miguel Mancera Aguayo
President's political adviser	Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero
National Bank of Mexico Director	Antonio Ortiz Mena
Airport and Auxiliary Services Director	Jose Andres de Oteyza
Federal Electricity Commission Director	Guillermo Guerrero Villalobos
National Company for Basic Commodities Director [CONASUPO]	Ignacio Ovalle
Undersecretary for Foreign Trade	Herminio Blanco
Undersecretary for Foreign Relations	Sergio Gonzalez Galvez

Public Officials, Media Directors Appointed

PA0912062488 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Dec 88 p 1

[Text]

Government Secretariat:	
Oscar Levin Coppel	General Director of Radio, Television and Cinematography (RTC)
Jose Carreno Carlon	General Director of EL NACIONAL Newspaper
Raymundo Riva Palacio	General Director of the NOTIMEX News Agency
Jose Antonio Alvarez Lima	General Director of the Mexican Television Institute (Imevision)
Gerardo Estrada	General Director of the Mexican Radio Institute (IMER)
Javier Najera Torres	Director of Television
Mercedes Certucha Llano	Director of Cinematography
Luis Ernesto Pi	Director of Radio
Planning and Budget Secretariat [SPP]:	
Rogelio Gasca Neri	Assistant Secretary of Industrial and Services Development for the SPP
Carlos M Jarque Uribe	Director of the National Institute of Statistics Geography, and Information Science (INEGI)
Pascual Garcia Alba Idunate	Assistant Secretary of Planning and Budget Control
Esteban Moctezuma Barragan	Principal Official
Office of Attorney General:	
Javier Coello Trejo	General Supervisor for Technical and Criminology Services
Federal District Department [DDF]:	
Carlos Sales Gutierrez	DDF Treasurer
National Tourism Fund [FONATUR]:	
Pedro Joaquin Codwell	FONATUR General Director
CONASUPO:	
Oscar Ramirez	CONASUPO Press Director
Banks:	
Hector Hernando Cervantes	Bancomer General Director
Francisco Suarez Davila	Somex General Director
Jose Juan de Olloqui	Serfin General Director

Oil Revenue, Exports Decrease in 1988

PA0812163788 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Nov 88 p 15

[Summary] A PEMEX report shows that if current oil prices on the international market are maintained, Mexico will receive only about $900 million in November and December 1988 from oil exports and will fail to receive approximately $2 billion in 1988 because of the drop in oil prices. The PEMEX report adds that Mexico will have to add losses caused by the drop in Mexican oil exports to the losses caused by the drop in oil prices. Estimates for 1988 showed that Mexico should have exported an average of 1.36 million barrels a day, and it is only exporting 1,303,202 barrels a day.

* PRI 1989 Oaxaca Electoral Problems Noted

32480038a Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 30 Oct 88 pp 4-A, 33-A

[Article by correspondent Angel Soriano]

[Text] Oaxaca, Oaxaca, 29 Oct—With 3 months to go before it selects its candidates and 9 months until the election, PRI will be undergoing a harsh text in this state of 570 municipalities, 20 percent of which are in the hands of the opposition and 30 percent of which are made up of municipal councils.

The state leader of PRI, Juan Diaz Pimentel, has acknowledged that in many of the municipalities the divisions and the struggle for power are among the members of PRI themselves.

Faced with a mosaic of 16 ethnic groups that have different mores and customs, languages and traditions, PRI will undergo a democratic process to return power to the people and accord legitimacy to the authorities so that the mayors will not be removed, inasmuch as they have been imposed by delegates of the same party who have failed to respect the will of the people.

Diaz Pimentel indicated that the problem of scattered municipalities must be tackled; the predominant feature of these municipalities is their isolation, which favors the cacique holdings that dominate the most isolated regions.

He reported that the status of the candidacies will be decided next year through blocs or by regions, so that the party has enough time to focus on as many important municipalities as possible, of which there will be some 100, and the mores and customs of the communities will be respected during the home stretch of the campaign.

For his part, Mario Vazquez Martinez, a leader of the PPS [Popular Socialist Party], and Eloy Vazquez from the PMS [Mexican Socialist Party] agreed that it will be hard to halt the advance of democratization and the rise of the opposition in Oaxaca, given the dissatisfaction in many communities that are faced with age-old agrarian and cacique problems which have been tolerated by the government.

"Oaxaca is not Tabasco or Veracruz, and PRI or the government cannot try to impose its will and ignore the people's legitimate aspirations to give themselves the government that they deserve. The municipal elections of next 4 July could be a social catalyst if repression and violence are used in a bid to stifle democratic concerns."

Vazquez Martinez said that this state is a full-fledged social laboratory, because political problems such as those of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec could spread to other regions if the government lacks the sensitivity to listen to the communities, which are tired of living in disadvantaged, poverty-stricken conditions.

Mario Alberto Mariano, the delegate general of the PRI's National Executive Committee, said for his part that PRI is prepared to banish the corrupt practices of imposition and cacique rule, which have curbed the social and economic development of many regions, where as a result of the rugged geography of the state a certain type of cacique rule that oppresses the communities flourishes.

He reported, for example, that 14 of 42 municipalities on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec are run by municipal councils because it has been impossible to reconcile the interests of the feuding PRI members themselves. As a result, they do not have elected authorities, since there are disputes between them. Therefore, PRI will experiment with democratic practices during the upcoming elections to seek an answer to the political problem that exists between groups within the ruling party itself.

He denied that the opposition is strong in the state, saying that "the only thing it does is steal our dissidents."

Margarito Montes, a leader of the Popular Peasant and Worker General Union, indicated that his group seeks to vindicate the legitimate rights of the dispossessed peasant farmers and that in the face of the bureaucratism with which the agrarian authorities operate, the peasants have decided to occupy the land in regions like Tuxtepec, where the Bravo Ahuja family and other landowners have used their power to corner the best land.

This is a political and social struggle that the dispossessed peasants are undertaking as they must seek groups that are independent of PRI in order to make long-delayed social gains.

In spite of its age-old agrarian, teacher, student and political problems, Oaxaca is calmly waiting for the second report of Governor Heladio Ramirez, even though the opposition deputies (8 of the 24 who make up the state congress), especially those of PAN [National

Action Party], will seek to formally question the governor, which they are trying to make a tradition, after what happened with the president.

Felipe Martinez, the mayor of Juchitan, stated that in his municipality "the old caciques, like some conservative forces operating in the state, are trying to thwart the political program of Governor Heladio Ramirez Lopez, but in the end the masses will win out because they have right on their side, even if vested interests get hurt."

*** Alarm Over 'Peasant Torch' Entry Into PRI**
32480038b Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 30 Oct 88 p 5

[Article by Maribel Gutierrez Moreno]

[Text] The formal incorporation of Peasant Torch (AC) into PRI will encourage the violent methods that this organization has used in various regions of the country to displace and do away with independent movements. The UGOCP [Popular Peasant and Worker General Union] and the National Coordinating Board for the Ayala Plan (CNPA) also described AC as a government-supported paramilitary group that is used when the official labor federations are weak, as they are now, to impede the development of independent peasant organizations.

Meanwhile, the organizational secretary of the National Peasant Confederation (CNC), Manuel Fuentes Bove, stated that "Peasant Torch's bad reputation is their problem and now the problem of those who accepted its entry into PRI; it is not the CNC's problem." Nevertheless, he emphasized that there are no fundamental disagreements between the two, indicating that CNC leader Hector Hugo Olivares Ventura was also involved in the process of incorporation into PRI as the ruling party's secretary of agrarian action.

In the CNC, he said, "we do not judge Peasant Torch's membership in PRI; we neither approve nor disapprove of it." Its entry, he remarked, shows that there are a number of new organizations around PRI and that we are living in times of greater pluralism, adding that "we have said that we have no evidence of violent action by Peasant Torch."

Fuentes Bove described AC as a regional organization, mainly from Puebla, that essentially is in accord with the ideological and political principles of PRI. He felt that the group did not join the ruling party in response to weakness in the CNC, adding: "The CNC has never aspired to be the sole labor federation on the Mexican agricultural scene. Our party has internal procedures and requirements that, if met, empower the National Executive Committee (CEN) to register other organizations as affiliates."

Fuentes Bove did not explain why AC joined PRI directly, not the CNC, in spite of the rapprochement between them in previous years, in particular when Mario Hernandez Posadas headed the CNC. In this regard he remarked only: "All organizations are entitled to decide whether they want to be affiliated with a national organization like ours or to apply for direct admission into the party."

For his part, Juan Miguel Ramirez, a spokesman of the UGOCP, felt that "if before, with the veiled support of PRI and of the government, Peasant Torch sowed violence in the countryside and, in the regions in which it operates, took over schools and CONASUPO [National Company for Basic Commodities] distribution centers, now it will do so with greater strength, after its official recognition as a PRI institution."

He indicated that AC has grown and spread to other states as a result of support from CONASUPO, which gives it control over stores and dairies. Moreover, he said, it has the backing of other institutions, such as the Secretariat of Agrarian Reform (SRA), and he recalled the case of the town of La Union in the municipality of Katazaja in Chiapas, where by way of violence, kidnapping and aggression Peasant Torch took over the leadership of the ejido [Indian community-held farmlands] with support from the SRA and expelled the members of the UGOCP in the community.

He stated that in accordance with the background on its activities, which began in 1974, AC arrives in a community to detract from the strength of the independent movements through repression and the control of stores, mills and other services, but does not make a solution to land-related problems one of its demands.

It often operates, he noted, with brigades of armed individuals who crack down on the independent peasants; the government thus does not appear to be responsible for the repression, as was the case in Puebla during the administration of Guillermo Jimenez Morales. Apparent confrontations between peasants in a bid to displace the independent organizations were resorted to in Puebla and are now beginning to be used in Chiapas as well.

Meanwhile, the CNPA asserted that AC operates in the communities or regions in which the CNC is not in control of the peasants, in an effort to confront and divide the communities by resorting to repression.

The organizations that have suffered from and spoken out most against the AC-caused violence are the ones that now belong to the UGOCP and CNPA. The Zapatist Organization of Huitzilan (OZH) comments in an analysis that Peasant Torch emerged in Puebla (in a region in which the independent movement was on the rise with many land takeovers) with the generous support of CONASUPO, the Mexican Coffee Institute, the Mexican Social Security Institute-General Coordinating Board of

the National Plan for Depressed Areas and Marginal Groups, the Secretariat of Public Education and the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources, which made their resources available to the group.

It feels that AC is a tool for government control to contain opposition movements in the countryside and that it fits into PRI's corporativist scheme without detracting from the power of the CNC.

It acknowledges that AC's wide-ranging capacity to mobilize is undeniable, which shows that it is a mass organization and gives it the power to reach agreements with the government in exchange for peasant support in the form of large rallies. The analysis also emphasizes that one of AC's traits is its strong rejection of any left-wing group, going on to say that in 1977 in the Huitzilan, Puebla region it began creating a climate of violence and terror that lasted for 5 years, during which time more than 150 members of the Independent Peasant Union were murdered.

El Salvador

Duarte Discharged From Mexico City Hospital

PA0812141688 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1206 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Eduardo Colindres, chief of protocol of the presidency, has reported that President Jose Napoleon Duarte has been discharged from the Military Hospital in Mexico City, but continues to be under medical observation. Colindres rejected the possibility that President Duarte will be taken to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington. He added that Duarte will return to El Salvador some time this week; however, the exact date for the return is not known.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the Mexican hospital where Duarte was a patient has been quoted as saying that Duarte's life is not in danger, he is in good spirits, and the worst is over.

PDC Denies Guatemalan Financing For Elections

PA0912040888 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, Christian Democratic Party [PDC] secretary general, has denied that the Guatemalan Government offered $3.7 million to finance PDC presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena's campaign. Morales Ehrlich added that this is a slanderous report put out by the party's enemies to diminish the PDC's increasing strength.

He also said the PDC has never received financial assistance from any Christian Democratic government in the area and that the only aid the party has received has been in the form of training from the Central American Political Studies Institute.

[Begin Morales Ehrlich recording] We have always been supported by Christian Democratic parties, both morally and politically, but they are not wealthy parties and certainly do not possess amounts such as $3.7 million. Our party has never had an amount like that, nor does the country. Central American parties are poor. We have never received money from anybody. We are financing our campaign ourselves. There is no doubt that these people [not further identified] are now in touch with some Salvadoran parties and have disseminated those rumors in a effort to minimize the PDC's progress. [end recording]

Asked about the PDC's budget, Morales Ehrlich did not give an exact amount and explained that any specific figure would be manipulated. He said, however, that ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] spends two or three times as much as the PDC. He denied ARENA Councilman Merino's latest charge of fraud and added that the ministries have not meddled in the electoral register. Morales Ehrlich said Merino himself and two other councilmen asked for assistance from the central government.

[Begin Morales Ehrlich recording] They are putting up a smoke screen to conceal their own plans. We want to stress that the Central Electoral Council itself—Merino was councilman at the time—asked the government for assistance in voters' registration. I understand the government has lent them vehicles, drivers, and other personnel. After he agreed to ask for this assistance, Merino is now trying to distort the truth. [end recording]

The fact that PDC and ARENA are harshly accusing each other of fraud might frustrate voters and increase the number of abstainers in the coming elections.

CD's Oqueli Colindres Discusses Army Tactics

PA0912000988 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Interview with Dr Hector Oqueli Colindres, member of the Democratic Convergence and secretary of the National Revolutionary Movement, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What does the Democratic Convergence [CD] think of the recent guerrilla attacks and the possibility of dialogue?

[Oqueli Colindres] We insist that the main problem in El Salvador is the war. That is the first point in our party platform, and so the recent FMLN actions—particularly last night's—underline once again the urgent need to end the war through a negotiated political solution. I repeat: It is the first point in our platform, and we believe that we will be able, once the war has ended through a negotiated political solution, to solve the rest of our problems.

[Reporter] On these latest guerrilla attacks, which are part of what they call "Operation Power, Organization, and the People's Strength Toward Insurrection," how does the CD feel about this systematic attack in the cities, inasmuch as the word insurrection is included in the name of the operation?

[Oqueli Colindres] Again, we insist on a negotiated political solution, as it is clear to the Salvadoran people that we have a war here, that those clashes are are not ghost attacks, that those clashes are between two military forces. There is a rebel movement here and there is the Army. To find a solution, the Army and the rebels must be taken into consideration, and therefore we—as the CD—would redouble our efforts toward peace through a negotiatied political solution.

[Reporter] Why do you not condemn the guerrillas when they kidnap and murder mayors and civilians as strongly as you condemn the Armed Forces when there are violations of human rights?

[Oqueli Colindres] Our position is clear and we have expressed it publicly. We have published full-page communiques on acts against civilians and municipal officials, as well as car bombs. We have made our position

clear: We do not support them. The human rights situation is a different problem because the Salvadoran Government has signed international agreements on human rights, not the guerrillas or the rebels. The Army says rebel actions are terrorist actions and that they are common criminals. According to that logic, then, these could not be human rights violations. However, we have stated that the Salvadoran Government is exclusively responsible for human rights in this country.

[Reporter] What about the CD's campaign in the interior of the country?

[Oqueli Colindres] In contrast to the other political parties, we have already held public rallies in Ahuachapan and Santa Ana. Sunday, we will go to Zacatecoluca and other towns. We have been in direct contact with the people. This will be one of our main campaign methods, and we are going to use it to a maximum. The people have reacted very positively to our campaign, and not to the intimidation that has sought to frighten them away from supporting us. For example, in Santa Ana last night there was shooting to prevent the people from attending our rally. When we were gathering at the Libertad Park in Santa Ana, Air Force planes flew over, trying to intimidate the Salvadoran people. Photos of [CD and FDR leaders] Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora with [FMLN Commander] Joaquin Villalobos have been posted, saying FMLN plus FDR equals CD.

[Reporter] How have you managed to acquaint people with the difference, and not associate you with the FMLN?

[Oqueli Colindres] The Psychological Operations Department of the Armed Forces insists on trying to put the two together. Even within the operations of the CONARA [National Commission for Reconstruction] plan, the Army makes reference only to CD candidates, which naturally gives us a little more publicity and propaganda. Throughout these years of war the people have learned to make distinctions; they know we are exclusively political organizations and that we conduct ourselves as such.

An alliance is one thing and a marriage is another. The Army is trying to make up some sort of marriage between us and the FMLN, but the people know that we are not the political wing of the FMLN and that there is no reason why the FMLN must be our armed wing. We are two different things. We have said this before, and we insist on it. As a political organization, we are campaigning with our candidates for the presidential elections, Guillermo Ungo and Mario Reni Roldan.

Police Defuse Two Bombs in San Salvador

PA0812164688 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpts] National Police technicians defused two powerful dynamite bombs this afternoon in one of the shopping centers at the Pan-American building in northwest San Salvador.

The bombs were placed by FMLN urban commandos on the first floor of the Pan-American building, located at 25th North Avenue and 27th West Street, two blocks north of the American Embassy. One of the bombs failed to go off for technical reasons and the other was defused by National Police officers. Owners of shops near the Conquistador nightclub, where the bombs were place, began to panic. [passage omitted]

During the last few days, nightclubs have been the target of FMLN dynamite bombings. The FMLN started this campaign by partially destroying the (Tepicalaura) in the Metropoli neighborhood.

FMLN Commander Jorge Melendez on 'Solution'

PA0912005688 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Jorge Melendez commentary: "Commander Jonas"]

[Summary From Poor Reception] "In 1982, local and international newscasts said it was natural for guerrillas to operate in department capital cities. Today, everybody knows that the Salvadoran people are winning the war. But it is necessary—victory makes it necessary—that the majority of the Salvadoran people understand that the people have the strength, the men, the production capacity, and the ability to unite with the country's democratic sectors; and that all that is needed now is the people's decision to go on the offensive because they are much stronger now than all the aid the U.S. Government can give to the Salvadoran Army."

"It is clear to the world that ours is a patriotic struggle for social justice. We do not threaten to become a radical regime or a totalitarian dictatorship or to implement immature policies, but we offer a true program—everybody understands this—that results from the domestic needs, underdevelopment, and economic and social backwardness, all of which cause injustice and misery. There are 300,000 homeless children in San Salvador. Hundreds of thousands of people do not have a decent home. We could go on describing the many faces of this social injustice."

"The response we have received is a military campaign to defeat the chance of real development in the country. This has already been mentioned abroad. Our position has been strongly backed elsewhere. Our general commanders have been received by three Latin American ministers. The OAS condemned terrorism, but not the FMLN-FDR and the Salvadoran people's struggle. Everybody admits and knows that the Salvadoran guerrillas are rooted in the people and operate in cities, urban areas, and throughout the country. Everybody knows this struggle is making progress."

"We want the people to understand that our victory will depend on their commitment. The Salvadoran people's primary goal is to prepare a general violent struggle. This does not diminish our desire for a political solution; as

Commander Joaquin Villalobos has said, the talks we have held so far have served only to test which of the two sides is more willing to talk. We have made no progress toward a real solution. To make such progress through negotiation, we must change the U.S. Government's warmongering position and the Salvadoran Army's fascist elements."

"The Salvadoran people are strong enough to put and end to the antidemocratic campaign" and establish a "government of national participation." The people will determine this, either with their arms or through the U.S. Government's common sense in letting El Salvador reach its own political solution.

FMLN Military Actions, Sabotage Reported

Former Lolotique Mayor Killed

PA0912050788 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] A Former Lolotique mayor was executed yesterday by FMLN guerrillas in San Miguel Department. Sesori civilian sources reported finding the corpse of Francisco Israel Diaz, who was captured 3 days ago by a group of guerrillas near Lolotique. According to the report, the corpse had several bullet wounds.

Pamphlets justifying the act were found at the scene of the crime.

According to an FMLN communique, Diaz represented the Christian Democratic Party and helped the Army in its counterinsurgency campaign.

Train Derailed; No Casualties

PA0812162488 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Report by Nelson Guillermo Cordoba]

[Text] FMLN guerrillas derailed a FENADESAL [Salvadoran National Railroad] train at 1440 on Wednesday afternoon near Puente Negro, Tecoluca Jurisdiction. The engine and three cars were destroyed when the dynamite planted by the extremists exploded. The train was going from San Miguel to San Salvador. No casualties were reported.

3-6 Dec Battle Reports

PA0912050588 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 2300 GMT on 7 December carries approximately 6 minutes of battle reports.

The station announcer says that on 6 December at 0800, an FMLN unit inflicted two casualties on the Army when it ambushed a military vehicle with two Manuel Jose Arce mines in La Paz Department. Meanwhile, another station announcer reports that on 3 December at 2330, FMLN troops sabotaged two electricity poles and seven transformers in the Silla de Oro neighborhood in San Vicente Department; they also distributed propaganda in El Paraiso in the same department.

The station announcer continues, saying that on 4 December FMLN forces attacked a coffee plantation in Santa Teresa, sabotaging a storehouse containing 2,050 sacks of coffee and destroying several machines and a generator. The report added that on 3 December at 1200 FMLN troops inflicted one casualty on the Jiboa Battalion in San Vicente Department.

The station announcer, citing a bulletin from the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front, reports that on 6 December at 0930 an FMLN unit clashed with the Jucuaran Battalion in San Felipe, Usulutan Department, seriously wounding one soldier. On the same day at 0800, a rebel unit entered La Lave, Nueva Granada, where, despite the presence of a cavalry unit, they distributed leaflets that said: "Youth, this is the time to arm yourself and struggle." In the clash that ensued, the FMLN inflicted one casualty on the Army. Continuing with the report from the Eastern Front, the announcer states that on 6 December at 1100 Arce Battalion troops attempted to dismantle a barricade and deactivate a booby trap, both of which had been placed by our guerrilla detachments in San Miguel Department; the mine exploded, killing one Army soldier.

Guatemala

Cerezo Discusses Nicaragua, Domestic Policy

PA0812150888 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Dec 88 p 10

[Unattributed article]

[Excerpts] At the last meeting between President Cerezo and the management sector, the Nicaraguan issue could not be avoided. It emerged when the president was questioned on Guatemala's foreign policy. The president's response gave the impression that changes would be made regarding the Sandinists. The president said:

"We cannot allow the Sandinists to divide and confront Central America. Nicaragua is a pain, of course, but it must be allowed to make purchases; a process of flexibility is necessary. Nicaragua should not, at any cost, follow the Cuban model. The Sandinists should not continue picking on others—as it is said they are training guerrillas—and they should start looking at whether their system works or not. It is not going to work. Nicaragua must make substantial changes for political reasons. The Sandinists may be communist or whatever they choose to be, but if the people are starving, the system cannot work. And in Nicaragua people are starving..."

President Cerezo, therefore, is sure that democracy does not exist in Nicaragua, the people are starving to death, and the system requires substantial changes. With his

knowledge of recent political history, however, he knows that the communist system has never, and will never, allow those changes to be made. Therefore, it is not to the Guatemalan Government's advantage to carry out political or economic actions that benefit the Sandinists, such as having anulled its huge debt last year. [passage omitted]

Cerezo also said he was elected by a coalition of representatives from various sectors, some of whom are displeased with the government because it has not created the ideal country that they thought democracy would create. He said today's objective should be to attain the stability that will allow each individual to achieve self-fulfillment.

Pointing out that 1989 should be the year of convergence—something that has never existed among the various sectors—the president said that national objectives should be sought, upon which everyone can agree, such as peace. He complained that some sectors have failed to condemn the Itzapa massacre because they fear being identified as progovernment. This is unfair because peace should be a national objective.

Cerezo also pointed out that active neutrality should be another objective, because Guatemala cannot exist as an island of peace and democracy if the region is in conflict, especially as the wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua have failed.

The president also discussed the political reasons behind certain government decisions, saying that instead of correcting the water problem in the capital he had decided to invest the money first in providing water for approximately 200 municipalities. He said he will now begin working in metropolitan areas, to which he has contributed more funds than the 8 percent mentioned in the Constitution.

According to this reasoning, the government decided to first help small towns to improve Cerezo's position in the mayoral elections. Now, in the second phase of his administration, he will work on the large urban centers to secure votes. As a result, Cerezo should not be surprised that criticism of government decisions is based upon the political reasoning behind these decisions. [passage omitted]

Perhaps because he listens so often to the praise of people who have masterminded these government decisions, Cerezo has reached the conclusion that his critics necessarily seek to create political problems for the government. That is not the case. [passage omitted]

Evaluates Value of Quetzal

PA0812134388 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Dec 88 p 3

[Excerpt] In answer to questions concerning rumors of a possible devaluation, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said yesterday that "there will be no devaluation of the quetzal in the next few days or in the foreseeable future."

Cerezo said those rumors are spread by speculators who want Guatemalans "to rush out at Christmastime to buy dollars to invest in great businesses."

Cerezo added that those who pay more for a dollar than the established rate will lose their money, because there will be no devaluation of the quetzal.

Cerezo said Guatemalans can rest easily, because over the next 2 years "the quetzal will remain stable." [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Rebels' Destruction

PA0812173588 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Dec 88 p 25

[Text] During an interview yesterday on the massacre of 21 peasants in San Andres Itzapa, Guatemalan Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo said the Guatemalan guerrillas "will be wiped out" in 3 to 5 years.

Gramajo said the massacre "was perpetrated by a group of 13 ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms] subversives who operate in a disorganized, desperate, and inconsistent manner."

"The end of the guerrilla movement began on 21 September 1987, but its total annihilation will take from 3 to 5 years, keeping in mind the erratic way in which it is currently operating," Gramajo added.

Gramajo said that rebel leaders seem "to have lost their control of the rebels and they are just trying to make everyone believe they are still around."

Defense Minister Gramajo explained that the Army has not been able to arrest the persons responsible for the massacre because they "spread out in groups of two or three rebels." Gramajo also added that "this is how the guerrillas are able to avoid the military cordon set up around the area."

Defense Minister Gramajo rejected charges made by the URNG that the Army is responsible for the massacre.

"The Army did what the villagers (residents of El Aguacate) asked us to do," Gramajo asserted.

Defense Minister Gramajo said "the guerrillas' awkward activities are desperate actions carried out by small subversive groups."

Honduras

4 Killed in U.S. Chinook Helicopter Crash

PA0812223288 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2115 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Report by station correspondent David Mesa from La Ceiba City]

[Text] Listeners of Voz de Honduras, we just came back from the town of El Peru, 7 km from La Ceiba City, where a U.S. Air Force Chinook dual-rotor helicopter crashed in a pasture owned by Lorenzo Reyes, which is located on the outskirts of El Peru. The four crewmen, all of them U.S. citizens were killed in this accident.

Only one person was identified, not from his remains but through an identification card found near the crash site. The accident has greatly saddened the people of El Peru. The name of the only person identified is (Adam Horban) with Carnet No 435. Thus far, this is the only identification available.

A few minutes ago, however, U.S. troops stationed at the Soto Cano Air Base in Comayagua arrived at the site of the crash. They would not allow newsmen near the crash site. U.S. troops are guarding the area. The U.S. troops did not even need the help of La Ceiba Fire Department nor of the persons trained in first aid, who came to assist at the scene of this accident, which occurred just a few minutes ago here in El Peru.

More on La Ceiba Crash

PA0812225388 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2120 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Report by La Ceiba correspondent David Mesa]

[Text] [Mesa] Let us listen to Marlene Reyes, a resident of El Peru hamlet, tell us what she saw before the dual-rotor Chinook helicopter crashed.

Marlene Reyes saw the U.S. Air Force Chinook before the crash. The four crewmen were killed in the crash. She will tell us what she saw:

[Reyes] First we heard noises, then we saw smoke, and then the helicopter exploded. We came over to this place, but we could not see anything. Then Air Force and Red Cross helicopters arrived. They found two bodies and one leg. That is all they have found so far.

[Mesa] At about what time did the helicopter crash?

[Reyes] [Words indistinct] 45. The Red Cross and the Air Force helicopter arrived approximately 20 minutes to half an hour after the crash.

[Mesa] Did you give any first aid when you realized the helicopter had crashed?

[Reyes] We all ran here, but the fire was too violent and we heard noises like bombs or something and people left because they were afraid of getting burned. Once the fire was put out, we all came back, but could not see anything until the Air Force troops began clearing the debris. They found the bodies.

[Mesa] Did you hear an explosion?

[Reyes] Yes. We heard several explosions from the time it crashed. We still heard explosions 20 minutes or half an hour after the crash.

[Mesa] You have just heard Marlene Reyes talking about the U.S. Air Force dual-rotor Chinook helicopter that crashed near El Peru hamlet, a few kilometers from La Ceiba City today. The four crewmen, all U.S. citizens, were killed in the crash. The only one identified was (Adam Horban), Carnet No 435.

Foreign Minister on Sandinist Helicopter Incident

PA0812203288 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Dec 88 p 45

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras on 7 December confirmed that the Nicaraguan Air Force helicopter, which illegally penetrated Honduran airspace, has been detained.

Lopez Contreras, who arrived at the Presidential Palace to report the incident to President Jose Azcona, said that for the time being he cannot give any more information on the incident or the pilot involved because it is still being investigated.

He said the investigation will be conducted in consideration of Honduras' interests and security and according to international law.

The minister said an inquiry will be conducted because the fact that a military aircraft has penetrated Honduras' airspace is unusual, particularly now that a climate of war at the border with Nicaragua has been reported, although this is not the situation.

Lopez Contreras said the aircraft, which entered Honduras illegally, is a Soviet-made Mi-25 helicopter of the Sandinist Air Force. Regarding recent television reports saying that Honduran troops raided Nicaraguan territory, the foreign minister said the only report he has received is that an armed Sandinist helicopter entered Honduran territory and landed in Tegucigalpa.

Pilot Reportedly Held

PA0812204488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1948 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran Government and military sources, who asked to remain unidentified, assured ACAN-EFE today that Honduras

will not turn over to Nicaragua pilot Edwin Estrada Leiva, who landed in Tegucigalpa on Wednesday aboard a Soviet-made MI-25 helicopter.

The sources said that turning over Estrada would be equivalent to convicting him, because the Nicaraguan Government charges that he is a "deserter" who hijacked the Sandinist Air Force helicopter on instructions of the U.S. CIA.

Concerning a possible return of the helicopter, the sources said this has to be negotiated between the Honduran and Nicaraguan authorities at the Foreign Ministry level.

"Because of humanitarian reasons and a desire to protect his life, we cannot return the Sandinist pilot," a military officer said.

A government spokesman said that the case is under investigation and that it is not known whether Captain Edwin Estrada Leiva has requested political asylum or if he wishes to travel to another country.

The Honduran Government admits that the helicopter violated Honduran airspace and that after it was intercepted by Air Force planes, it was forced to land at the Hernan Acosta Mejia base in Tegucigalpa.

Nicaragua maintains that Estrada is a deserter, and according to President Daniel Ortega, the pilot "is a CIA infiltrator."

A military source said that the helicopter is in a Honduran Air Force hangar and might be shown to the press in the next few days.

Nicaragua yesterday began efforts to get Honduras to return the helicopter and obtain the pilot's extradition.

Government Protests to UN

PA0812223388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2132 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Government today protested to the United Nations and the OAS over a Nicaraguan helicopter that penetrated Honduran airspace and landed at a Honduran airbase yesterday. Honduras implied that the helicopter could have been carrying out an espionage mission.

In a communique issued to the United Nations and the OAS, Honduran Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras explained that Honduran authorities are carrying out an investigation to determine the mission assigned to the aircraft, a Soviet-manufactured Mi-25 helicopter, "that could have been involved in espionage." [passage omitted]

The Honduran foreign affairs minister's communique said that in the past weeks, "Nicaragua has been waging a continuing disinformation campaign on the Honduran border situation."

Lopez Contreras stated that "my government's repeated attempts at negotiation have been in vain" and accused Nicaragua of carrying out a campaign "based on artificially created tensions, whose motives we know nothing about." [passage omitted]

He added that, based on its investigations, the Honduran Government "will proceed according to the principles and norms of international law." [passage omitted]

Lopez Contreras concluded by saying that actions such as these "are a setback to the Esquipulas II peace agreements," which were signed by the five Central American presidents in Guatemala on 7 August 1987.

The helicopter and its pilot, Edwin Estrada Leiva, are in Tegucigalpa. According to Honduran Government sources, the Honduran Government will not turn the officer over to Nicaragua.

On Wednesday, Nicaragua had started to arrange for the return of the aircraft and the extradition of the pilot from Honduras.

Azcona Describes 'Amusing' Dialogue With Castro

PA0812124688 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 3 Dec 88 p 4

[Text] Honduran and Cuban Presidents Jose Azcona Hoyo and Fidel Castro held a brief conversation, sprinkled with jokes and good political humor, during a dinner hosted by outgoing President Miguel de la Madrid in Mexico.

Prior to returning home yesterday, President Azcona described part of the dialogue he held with Castro, whom he described as a man "with a great personality."

Azcona said that "the conversation was good, because it was held in a cordial atmosphere and without seeking political confrontation."

He explained that the Cuban president was interested in Honduran affairs and asked the length of each presidential term.

When he learned it was 4 years, the Cuban president said: "That is very short. It is very little time to do anything significant."

According to Azcona, Castro then told him: "If Reagan reelects himself, why don't you?"

The Honduran president answered that "in Honduras, it cannot be done because it is established in the Constitution that each presidential term will last 4 years, without the option of reelection. After all, I think 4 years is enough."

After saying that "in Honduras we respect the Constitution," Azcona told Castro: "Four years are long enough as long as there is renewal. It is not like your case, Mr President, as you have a great record that is only surpassed by the Generalissimo Franco (the late Spanish head of state) and perhaps Mrs Thatcher (the British prime minister) who is apparently going to beat that record also."

When he heard Azcona's words, his Cuban counterpart laughed loudly and answered: "Mr President, the whole world talks badly about me, but nobody says anything about the Pope (John Paul II), who has been in power for many years. Nobody talks about the Pope, because once he gets there, he is in office for life."

Azcona emphasized that his meeting with Castro was very cordial and there was no ideological friction, but rather everything was said in a very amusing manner.

More on Presidential Meeting

PA0812164288 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 7 Dec 88 p 4

[Text] Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo assured his Cuban colleague Fidel Castro last week that Honduras does not plan to attack Nicaragua, and it will not permit the use of its territory to launch an invasion against that country.

President Azcona revealed this yesterday as he referred to the diplomatic contacts he held in Mexico on the occasion of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's inauguration.

Azcona said he met with Cuba's Fidel Castro and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega to analyze the Central American situation and the problem of the Nicaraguan contras.

"Castro was very circumspect and just took note of my statement. I assured him that we will not attack Nicaragua or permit the use of our territory to launch an invasion against Nicaragua," Azcona said.

Azcona added: Castro seemed to be surprised by my statement as if it were the first time he heard this, although I have repeated it many times.

Azcona told his Cuban and Nicaraguan counterparts that Nicaragua's geographical position is not the same as Cuba's and that peace cannot be restored in Nicaragua just by eliminating the contras, "because there cannot be peace in a country without total democracy."

"I also told them that I am a democratic and transitory president who wants to contribute to peace in the area by establishing a peacekeeping force at the Nicaraguan border to serve as a cordon," he said.

He also stressed that the Central American isthmus is a bridge between North and South America. Thus, an irregular situation in Nicaragua "affects not only countries in the area, but the entire continent."

The Honduran president added that the lack of democracy in Nicaragua has resulted in a large number of refugees and counterrevolutionaries and that this discontent will continue to grow until public and individual rights are fully restored in that neighboring country.

Armed Forces Lieutenant Colonels Promoted

PA0812153788 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] A request to promote Honduran Armed Forces officers to the next higher rank was presented to Congress last night. The Armed Forces now have 11 new colonels.

The officers who promoted to colonel are: Infantry Lieutenant Colonels Julio Armando Pabon Rodriguez, Angel Ricardo Luque Portillo, Wilfredo Salgado Balladares, Augusto Cesar Vasquez Flores, Mario Amaya Amaya, Jose Isiris Ocon Ortena, Eric Cornelio Sanchez Sandoval, and Herman Dole Orellana; Artillery Lt Cols Hector Rene Fonseca Lopez and Herbert Munguia Morales; and Sanitation Corps Lt Col Reynel Funes Raudales.

Correction to Report on'89 Budget

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Report Issued on'89 Budget, Economic 'Crisis,'" published in the 1 December Latin American DAILY REPORT, page 23:

Column one, paragraph three, only sentence should read: ...debt, which consumes 400 million lempiras annually for interest and... (correcting figure, changing "every day" to "annually")

Column two, paragraph two, first sentence should read: ...had risen to 1.2894 billion lempiras. While... (correcting figure)

Same paragraph, second sentence should read: ...1987 they totalled 1.4534 billion lempiras, which reflects a deficit of 164 million lempiras. According... (correcting figures)

Column two, third paragraph, first sentence should read: ...years and the expected rise in international assistance have considerably increased... (clearing indistinct words, rewording)

Same paragraph, sentence two should read: ...currently stands at 2.3506 billion lempiras for the internal debt and 5.1540 billion lempiras for the foreign debt, which places Honduras' total public debt at 7.5046 billion lempiras. The... (correcting figures throughout)

Same paragraph, penultimate sentence should read: ...for 1989 is 2.1718 billion lempiras, with... (correcting figure)

Column two, paragraph four, first sentence should read: ...for 1989 of 1.4950 billion lempiras, which... (correcting figure)

Column two, paragraph five, first sentence should read: Current expenses total 1.4940 billion lempiras with... (correcting figure)

Nicaragua

Condolences Sent to Gorbachev on Armenia

PA0912040688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0014 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Managua, 8 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega sent a message of condolences today to Mikhail Gorbachev for the earthquake that struck northern Armenia and caused tens of thousands of deaths.

The Nicaraguan president conveyed to the Soviet leader his "distress about the great loss of life and damage" caused by the earthquake on Wednesday.

"On behalf of my government, the FSLN, and the Nicaraguan people, I send you my deepest condolences for what is truly a tragedy," Ortega said in his telegram to Gorbachev.

Ortega Comments on Latin American Unity, Peace

PA0812135388 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 30 Nov 88 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Report on interview with President Daniel Ortega by Marta Anaya in Mexico City; date not given]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega emphasizes: Times have changed! That is why this meeting of Latin American heads of state is taking place now in Mexico City.

He adds: I now see a Latin America that reasserts principles that seemed to be exhausted. I see the "solitary battles" waged by this or that country are a thing of the past and, in exchange, "The battle is slowly spreading throughout Latin America."

The Nicaraguan leader looks enthusiastic. He talks about the gathering of eight Latin American heads of government—four of them from Central America—for Carlos Salinas de Gortari's inauguration, and insists:

"This is not a mere act of protocol... The mere fact that certain Central American presidents have dared to come—knowing that Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega are here—even though they know this might cause problems with the U.S. Ambassador, indicates a certain determination, a certain independence from the U.S. Administration."

[Anaya] What risks are faced by this meeting of presidents?

Commander Ortega thinks about this an instant. He answers: Well, I believe a new attitude is evident in Latin America: A new convergence that—although fragile initially—has become stronger with time...

[Anaya] When did it begin?

[Ortega] I saw an important phase of convergence at Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja's inauguration...a pluralist Latin American convergence that is being reasserted in Mexico City. Therefore, I see this as a continuation of the meeting in Quito.

[Anaya] Why is this convergence taking place? Are you, the presidents, taking a chance? Is this a new phase?

[Ortega] I would not say this is a new phase, only a time when tensions continue to increase in Central America. On the one side, Nicaragua has been consolidated—the revolution has been consolidated—but on the other side, the revolutionary movement has increased in El Salvador... so there is tension! I believe various interests, even contradictory interests, are at stake here (at this meeting), but one element dominates the rest: The search for a minimum of stability, a modicum of peace, to come out well....

[Anaya] Then....

[Ortega] Then I believe this convergence is taking place here in Mexico City, during Carlos Salinas de Gortari's inauguration, because of the Central Americans' foremost interest, regardless of our political and ideological interests.

[Anaya] I mentioned that, in a certain way, the mere fact of being here, knowing what may happen because you and Commander Castro are here, represents an attitude in itself. Is that the important thing in this case, the attitude?

[Ortega] Of course! I believe this is a great opportunity. Furthermore, in Nicaragua's case, we have good bilateral relations with Mexico, so I did not come here only because of the Central American situation.... We will not forget that Latin Americans have many common interests, and that Latin America demands stability in Central America, just as it demands stability in other unstable regions—Chile, Haiti, and Paraguay, for example.

[Anaya] What do you specifically hope to achieve with this "convergence"?

[Ortega] I believe the mere fact that a group of Latin American presidents (Fidel Castro, Cuba; Vinicio Cerezo, Guatemala; Jose Napoleon Duarte, El Salvador; Jose Azcona Hoyo, Honduras; Raul Alfonsin, Argentina; Virgilio Barco, Colombia) will meet here, even though we have different political positions and ideologies, represents a step toward Latin American convergence, which demands respect for Latin American pluralism.

Daniel Ortega—the first head of state to arrive in Mexico City for the inauguration—comes from Anenecuilco, Morelos, where he has visited the Emiliano Zapata museum this morning. [Ortega said] "I was truly touched." He is wearing military-type pants and a Tlaxcala leather jacket, as he later tells us.

Immediately upon his arrival at the embassy residence—shortly before our chat—he talks with some foreign correspondents. The talk with them centers on Nicaragua's position concerning the new U.S. Administration, Bush's Administration.

Commander Ortega states:

In truth, our attitude will be determined by the new U.S. Administration's attitude. However, we must bear in mind that a given situation already prevails; the new U.S. Administration will inherit that. We do not hope to achieve anything in the near future. Bush will inherit a highly complicated situation, so I believe peace is not right around the corner.

[Anaya] I hear the Central American countries do not want a dialogue...

[Ortega] No, that is not true. Nicaragua wants a dialogue, Guatemala wants a dialogue, El Salvador wants a dialogue, Costa Rica wants a dialogue...only Honduras is missing! Apparently Honduras is the one that precludes a dialogue...tell them to stop being an obstacle!

[Anaya] What about the upcoming foreign ministers' meeting?

[Ortega] A presidential summit is still pending; this is a good occasion for the presidents—only President Arias is not here—to decide once and for all when we will meet and continue working to achieve peace in Central America.

[Anaya] Do you bring a specific proposal for the foreign ministers' meeting?

[Ortega] I believe the important thing here is the direct contact, which has not been possible since earlier this year. We must find the reasons why the meeting has not taken place, investigate the causes, and try to overcome them. Of course, the meeting should be held without conditions.

The president of Nicaragua also asserts that the most important thing for reactivating the Esquipulas II negotiations is "the Central American presidents' attitude toward our problems."

He denies that the renewal of negotiations between Central American presidents demands that Nicaragua withdraw the lawsuit against Honduras at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, because "one does not prevent negotiations by resorting to a judge." Ortega explains: "That would be tantamount to saying that the Central American presidents' meeting will be held when the conflict ends..."

To conclude, and returning to the meeting that the Latin American presidents will hold in Mexico City, two dinners have been scheduled: one with President Miguel de la Madrid at the National Palace this evening, and another one with President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari tomorrow.

The Nicaraguan president ponders: "Why this convergence here in Mexico City? I believe it is possible because times—as I said in the beginning—have changed.... Otherwise, a meeting would have been difficult, very difficult."

2 New Military Ranks Created in MININT

PA0812151988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] President Daniel Ortega has sent a draft law to the Nicaraguan parliament that creates two new military ranks within the Interior Ministry [MININT]. He has proposed the ranks of first commander [primer comandante] and regiment commander [comandante de regimiento]. He also confirmed the rank of brigadier commander [comandante de brigada] and other military ranks.

The draft law, which will be sent to a parliamentary commission to prepare the necessary documents, adds that the ranks will be granted while bearing in mind the level of responsibility within MININT. In addition, the president will have the power to grant permits allowing officers to serve in other state organizations.

Socialist Bloc Assistance Arrives From USSR

PA0812154888 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] A ship from the USSR loaded with a donation for the Nicaraguans has arrived at Corinto Port. The cargo arrives every year at Christmastime with clothing, shoes, food, medication, and construction materials collected during solidarity campaigns in the socialist countries. The rector of the Patrice Lumumba University in the USSR, (Vladimir Stanis), and the diplomatic corps from the socialist countries accredited in Nicaragua, today delivered the assistance to Marta Lucia Cuadra, president of the Council of Solidarity, Friendship, and Peace With the Socialist Countries.

Sweden Grants Aid in Response to Hurricane Joan

PA0812184988 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Dec 88 p 4

[Summary] Commander Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan foreign cooperation minister, and Carl Tham, general director of the Swedish Authority for International Development, have signed an agreement for Sweden to donate $1.5 million to Nicaragua. The money will be used to repair the damage caused by Hurricane Joan.

Tham added that his country will continue supporting Nicaragua and expressing its solidarity with the Nicaraguan people.

Communique Denies Alleged Borge Call to Radio

PA0812150088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1426 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Communique issued by the Interior Ministry in Managua on 7 December]

[Text] The Interior Ministry [MININT] reports to the Nicaraguan people that today at 1353 a call was received at Radio Sandino's studios that imitated the voice of Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez and that ordered the live broadcast of his alleged remarks against the Honduran Government.

We alert the national and international public about these types of actions which seek to create conflicts with neighboring countries. The MININT is investigating the origins of the call and the initial details indicate that the call was made from a country of the region.

Issued in Managua on 7 December 1988

MININT Public Relations Directorate

No Decision on Appeal of Corporacion Newscast

PA0812191488 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] The Interior Ministry has not yet answered the appeal Jose Castillo Ocejo filed over the closing of [Managua Radio Corporacion's] "Six O'Clock Sharp" newscast. The newscast has a large following and it was closed by the government over 1 month ago.

[Begin Castillo recording] Our "Six O'Clock Sharp" newscast was closed on 1 November. It has now been closed for 1 month and several days. I filed an appeal with the Media General Directorate within the term prescribed by law and received a response 8 days later [word indistinct] the case to a higher authority. It has now been 3 weeks, or approximately 25 days, since we did so, and we have received no response yet.

The law does not (?say) much; it is not quite clear as to how long the higher authority can withhold ruling on the case. The truth is that if administrative silence is used, we will resort to the courts. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PSC Board Leader on Political Situation

PA0812193988 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Erick Ramirez, president of the Social Christian Party [PSC], has reported on the results of the meeting held by the PSC National Board over the weekend.

[Begin Ramirez recording] The board, which met over the weekend, analyzed Nicaragua's overall political, economic, and social situation during 1988. The conclusion of this in-depth discussion is that during 1988 political repression grew in Nicaragua and the economic crisis has reached incredible depths. Without a doubt, in its eagerness to totally control the lives of Nicaraguans, the FSLN has brought chaos and deterioration and created widespread unrest among the population.

We feel that the stagnation in the political talks, both at the level of the internal national dialogue and the rapprochement between the Nicaraguan Resistance and the Sandinist Government, has brought about a great deal of uncertainty as to a possible peaceful solution to the crisis in Nicaragua. 1988 also marked a deterioration in church-state relations. PSC leaders are still under arrest following the Nandaime case, including, among others, (Jose Anel Luque) and (Juan Jose Blandon de Sedas). [end recording]

Government Issues New 10,000-Cordoba Bills

PA0812142688 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Summary] The government has issued 10,000-cordoba bills that are signed by Roberto Gutierrez, vice president of the Central Bank. The bills are actually the old 10-cordoba bills that have been stamped with the new face value. This is considered a sure sign that inflation is increasing, as the government is issuing bills with no backing.

Panama

Torrijos' Brother Says 'Leave Mr Davis'

PA0912021388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Dec 88 p 4

[Article by Moises Torrijos: "Leave Mr Davis!"]

[Text] Leave Mr Davis. You have done much harm to Panama. Of course, when you return to Washington you will not be able to say: "Mission accomplished." It was not for want of trying but because you were unable to accomplish it.

Leave Mr Davis. You have already done the "work" your bosses told you to do. However, you failed in every respect because we Panamanians are a hard nut to crack. You came here to implement the policy drawn up by Shultz and Abrams, two gentlemen who will go down in history as the most erratic officials in U.S. - Latin American relations and as number one public enemies of peace in Central America and Panama.

Leave Mr Davis. Make way for someone less obstinate, stupid, and meddling. Do not forget to take Maisto [U.S. Embassy deputy chief of mission] with you. His failure has also been colossal. And please take Miss Susan Davis [ambassador's daughter]. She is not even wanted at the Union Club [upperclass social club].

Leave Mr Davis. A long time ago the Panamanian Legislative Assembly (representing the people) declared you persona non grata. The PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], the country's majority party, declared you persona non grata. The same was done by allied parties, the Defense Forces, and the nationalist labor unions. You have to be thick-skinned and shameless to continue on Panamanian soil in spite of such total repudiation. With everything that you have done here, you would have been lynched in any other country. We Panamanians are guilty of being excessively generous.

Leave Mr Davis. I request this as a citizen who has been deeply wounded by your outrageous actions against Panama. I request this as the elder brother of General Torrijos, a leader who never foresaw that, a few years after his death, imperialism would have the nerve to disregard (just because it feels like it) the treaties he and President Carter signed.

Leave Mr Davis. The doors of the international airport that is named after Torrijos, Panama's great Third World leader, will be gladly open so you and your clique can leave. But let your departure be forever.

However, perhaps you should depart through Howard [U.S. Air Force Base]. That way you might avoid a stoning.

Opposition Leader on Noriega-Seineldin Ties

PA0812192688 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1230 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Bonn, 8 Dec (DPA)—Ricardo Arias Calderon, Christian Democratic Party leader and member of the Panamanian opposition, said today in Bonn that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP), must have had prior knowledge of the attempted coup in Argentina led by Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, who was decorated in November for his work as a military adviser.

Arias, who is also vice president of the Christian Democratic International, stated that Noriega did not warn President Raul Alfonsin of the preparations for the insurrection "probably in response to the clear and firmly democratic stance adopted by the Argentine head of state toward the Panamanian regime" and in response to Panama's exclusion from the Group of Eight.

According to the 1 December issue of Panama's Official Gazette, Seineldin received his decoration on 24 November 1988 from President Manuel Solis Palma and Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari.

The Whereas section of the executive resolution that appeared in the official publication states that for 3 years the Argentine colonel served as military adviser to the FDP and as coordinator of military training programs. The resolution says: "His great military ability, his rank, and his personal qualities have enabled him to be a guide of the defense forces of the future."

Arias Calderon said the recent statements by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter denying that Seineldin was military adviser to the FDP under Gen Noriega's command were "refuted by a public document issued by the Panamanian Government itself."

Arias Calderon added: "It would be inconceivable for such an intimate collaborator of Gen Noriega to leave Panama to lead an insurrection without the FDP commander having some knowledge of the matter."

The Panamanian opposition leader stated that "the residue of dictatorship existing in Latin America (more specifically of the kind represented by Gen Noriega) has a potential for creating a military danger to the region. As long as Latin America is not completely democratized, democracy is endangered."

Meanwhile in Bonn, circles close to Western secret services consulted by DPA, the German press agency, revealed that Col Mohamed Ali Seineldin stayed for a while at the Marriott Hotel in Panama City, from where he supervised a controversial act of repression against Panamanian and foreign journalists a few months ago.

Later, the Argentine military man lived in what used to be the La Siesta Hotel, now a military club, and for a while he was seen wearing a leg cast, apparently due to an accident suffered while on parachuting exercises with the FDP.

In Panama, Seineldin was known as a person of "strict, traditional religious beliefs." The Argentine colonel's presence in Panama coincided with "acts in which the FDP showed signs of devotion to images of the Virgin Mary, something totally alien to their customs."

Seineldin, who arrived in Panama as military attache to the Argentine Embassy in Panama, also organized political orientation seminars, both for members of the FDP and their families, and served as an adviser during the formation of paramilitary groups known as Dignity Battalions."

According to sources, Gen Noriega surrounded himself with other very peculiar advisers. Among those advisers is Luis Manuel Martinez, a Cuban whose comments on international politics are featured on Panamanian television (Channel 2, owned by the military), who at one time was a spokesman for dictators Fulgencio Batista in Cuba and Anastacio Somoza in Nicaragua.

Also within this group of advisers is the "unique figure" of a businessman, Lyndon Larouche, editor of the "Executive Intelligence Review" and supporter of an "obscure organization known as the Schiller Institute." Larouche is currently under investigation by U.S. authorities for tax fraud. [passage omitted]

PRD President: Alliance With PALA Continues

PA0812154688 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 7 Dec 88 pp 1, 14

[Report by Mario Martinez Puente]

[Text] Asked by CRITICA last night about PALA's [Labor Party] "declaration of war" announced by PALA Secretary General Ramon Sieiro during a news conference yesterday, Carlos Duque, the president of PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], UNADE's [National Democratic Union] major party, said: The PRD has always kept the doors for dialogue open because this is part of Omar's [Torrijos] philosophy.

Asked about "PALA's strategy," Duque said: "Every party has its own strategy because we live in a democracy. We have made an effort to hold a congress on 16 December to reorganize the party and prepare ourselves for the 7 May elections."

About a possible PALA break with the government because of yesterday's announcement, Duque said: "The alliance will continue as long as PALA remains in the government. We have not learned that any PALA government official has resigned."

Regarding Sieiro's proposal for primary elections, Duque said: "This would be equivalent to holding the elections ahead of schedule."

"We shall follow our party guidelines, and the PRD has stated it will announce its presidential candidate following Reagan's departure on 20 January," Carlos Duque said.

Showing his concern for the possibility that the statements made by the PALA leadership yesterday could contribute to the strengthening of the country's natural enemies—U.S. imperialism and the traitorous oligarchy—the top PRD leader said: "The PALA's rank and file is one thing and the PALA National Executive Committee is another. We expect that party's rank and file, our ally in the national liberation process, to express their opinion in this regard."

Former Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega Duran said the statements made by the PALA leaders yesterday "may create some confusion, but we know the rank and file will not be confused."

"A large group in the country believes in the independence and sovereignty of our nation, while another believes Panama should be a U.S. colony," Ortega Duran said.

After pointing out that "this is the vital problem," the former PRD foreign minister said, "We understand that our people, the PALA's rank and file, and large groups, which have not been confused, understand the need to fulfill the aspirations of the Panamanian people to consolidate full sovereignty over the entire nation," which is the fundamental goal of the national liberation process led by the PRD.

Meanwhile, former PRD Secretary General Gerardo Gonzalez, said, "They talk about UNADE, but they continue to profit [siguen mamando] from it."

Gustavo Melgar, deputy secretary general of the PRD, said his party understands that "the greatest enemies of the Panamanian people, of the PRD, and of UNADE and PALA members are U.S. imperialism and the traitors."

Gerardo Gonzalez said that in practice the UNADE will be preserved and the PALA will be our ally as long as it remains in government.

Darisnel Espino, secretary general of the PRD, using a conciliatory expression, said the PALA will remain our ally and we will continue to consider them our brothers. Espino said: "Our enemy is not the UNADE or the PALA. Our common enemy is another. They are our friends in the task of fulfilling the strategy laid out by our Commander Omar Torrijos: 'Full sovereignty and national liberation.'"

PALA Leaving UNADE

PA0912024988 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] President Carlos Duque made these comments on the Labor Party's [PALA] recent decision to leave the National Democratic Union [UNADE] that led them to power in the 1984 elections:

[Begin recording] All political parties must enter into alliances. We in the PRD are aware of each political party's importance and significance. We believe that PALA's rank and file are committed, with us, to the struggle for national liberation and total sovereignty.

I am sure that PALA will be with us in the upcoming electoral contest. The PRD does not want to be the alliance's leader or maintain an arrogant, unyielding position. In our historic struggle, there is no room for unyielding positions. That is why we believe that the PALA leadership's decision has been, perhaps, too hasty and based on a position that the alliance has yet to establish.

We have told all political groups and organizations in the country that a true alliance must be formed. An alliance where we all work and share our historical commitment and, more important, one that allows us to go into the May 1989 elections united.

PALA leaders have said that it is leaving UNADE but, as I see it, they have not left the government because I do not know of any PALA member that has resigned or left a government position.

Let me reaffirm that PALA is our friend and brother. There are differences of opinion about how to manage national politics among UNADE members—differences, however, that can be resolved. They are not so deep that they merit leaving the alliance, which is proved by the fact that PALA members continue on in government.

We agree with [PALA Secretary General Ramon] Sieiro that the alliance needs changes and that new agreements must be made with the various groups in the alliance. We have even declared that UNADE's orginal alliances are null and void because the persons who originally formed them are presently with those who are playing the game with [changes thought] are serving as lackeys. Our party, the PRD, cannot slacken or abandon its commitment to the fatherland and, therefore, cannot allow itself to be weakened by internal conflicts and personal clashes.

At present, just prior to our 3d National Congress, we call on all party members to set aside their ambitions and take a militant, disciplined position to give the country a stable, realistic, and democratic alternative: a democracy guided by the sacred principles of national dignity and sovereignty. There is no room for ambitions or futile struggles in the PRD. The fatherland is more important than all of us and it demands that we be generous, rise to the occasion, and gain respect. [end recording]

DENI Seizes 168 kg of Cocaine, Arrests 6

PA0812190488 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Summary] Panama's National Department of Investigations [DENI] reported seizing 168 kg of cocaine, worth approximately $50 million, yesterday. During a news conference this afternoon, DENI Deputy Director Major Domitilo Cordoba and Jose Val, secretary of the Narcotics Department of the Attorney General's Office, said the drug was going to be flown to the United States inside a PANAM Airlines container. Three Colombians and three Panamanians were arrested.

Argentina

Alleged Nazi War Criminal Arrested in Isidro

PY0812120488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2238 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA)—The federal police have arrested Jan Hottetot Olij [as received], 70, who is charged with being a Nazi war criminal, and have placed information on his background at the disposal of both the court and the Foreign Ministry.

Hottetot was arrested at dawn [date not given] at a farm at 5571 Deseado Street in the Isidro Casanova suburb, by officers of the Moron police station.

Army Command Releases Communique on Meeting

PY0812214688 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2021 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (TELAM)—This afternoon, at the conclusion of the meeting of Army commanders that began yesterday, the Army General Staff released the following communique:

At the conclusion of the sixth meeting of Army commanders, the Army General Staff reports that the following issues were discussed:
1. Evaluation of the recent military events in every Army jurisdiction.

A study was also made of the deep-seated causes of the Army's internal problems and how to solve them.
2. Evaluation of the most urgent needs for the normal development of short- and medium-range Army activities.
3. Overall evaluation of disciplinary responsibilities and arrangements, to begin military court proceedings for each particular case.
4. Measures for the administrative normalization of the Army and provisions for next year. The measures include relieving and transferring personnel, and those measures must be studied by the Army personnel section. The study must be submitted to the Army chief of staff as soon as possible.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Army chief of staff emphasized the importance of Army unity in the search for solutions to its main problems.

The Army commanders are returning to their respective commands.

Menem: 6th Regiment Rebellion Not Over

PY0812182788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1712 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (NA)—Justicialist presidential candidate Carlos Menem this afternoon said that "the military crisis continues," because Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena told him that "the rebellion at the 6th Regiment at Mercedes is not yet over."

In the meantime, Isabel Peron has said that "like everyone else," she is "concerned" about the military conflict, adding that "a proper solution can be found" for the situation.

Menem and Isabel Peron are now having lunch at "Martin Carrera" restaurant in Buenos Aires, in the company of Zulema Yoma, Juan Bautista Yofre, Carlos Amar, and Hugo Franco.

New 1st Air Brigade Commander Sworn In

PY0812120588 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2108 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (DYN)—During a ceremony today, Commodore Norberto Abel Trillini was sworn in as the new commander of the 1st Air Brigade headquartered in El Palomar. Trillini replaces Commodore Manuel Villagran, who has been given a new appointment within the Air Force General Staff.

* Menem's Endorsement From 'Subversives' Attacked

33480039C Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Oct 88 p 8

[Text] In a manifesto issued a few days ago, the "Revolutionary Peronists" express their support for the Menem-Duhalde ticket that the Justicialist Party will run in the upcoming presidential elections. At the head of the signatures on the document is that of one of those responsible for General Aramburu's murder, the former governor of Buenos Aires Province. Elected governor in 1973, this renowned supporter of subversive groups is now in jail facing charges of terrorist acts. In addition to the objections raised by the endorsement itself and the signatures attached to it, there are those arising out of the objectives of the support, which are justifiably alarming to the public.

Among the objectives attributed to the Justicialist presidential candidate is making "hunger, the economic recession, and submission to the dictates of the IMF yield to the development of the domestic market, a massive pay raise, and the sovereignty of the national parliament over the handling of the foreign debt." In addition, with regard to economic, political, and social matters, the stated objective is for "Revolutionary Peronism" to do away with the wage "as a variable of adjustment," with "social deprivation," with the "degradation of education and public health," and with "provocation and repression" as "a means of silencing popular protests." Furthermore, after condemning an alleged "McCarthian hypocrisy" on the part of the government, the endorsement goes on to call for the "humility of self-criticism" on the part of all national sectors. It demands the release of supposed political prisoners and persecuted individuals, and calls for the replacement of what it calls the "arrogance of the Alfonsinist political hegemony" with the "humility of Carlos Menem." Then the document declares that "reforming the Constitution and moving the capital should cease to be the currency of the nonexistent third historic

movement," proposing that "they be placed within the framework of a national program with a new foundational social pact, a new federal pact, and a new constitutional pact."

Contrary to what the document in question alleges, it would be difficult to find a manifesto addressed to public opinion with as many absurdities, couched in such vacuous and grandiloquent terms, and containing so many assertions that conceal the exact opposite of what they claim, as this document has. Thus, the supposed "humility" of the presidential candidate is contradicted by the invocation of the "Justicialist national movement," which appears to be an expression of the totality of society in which factions and sectors dissolve into one; the protection of wages proposed includes the "salariazo" [massive pay raise] that will result in the deterioration of buying power and a severe recession that would aggravate unemployment and increase the workers' poverty; criticism of the IMF and the handling of the foreign debt, as well as the call for the defense of the domestic market, will lead to international isolation, the severance of ties with world financial centers, and finally submission to more severe requirements by the creditor banks; the release of political prisoners will be like the release of terrorists and common criminals in 1973; and the call for a national and popular front will lead to divisiveness and confrontation among Argentines, as has happened on other tragic occasions in our past.

But the most serious and threatening aspect is the announcement of a constitutional reform that would leave no trace of the 1853 Constitution that now governs us. It proposes something that is absolutely new, drawing inspiration from totalitarianism. The indigenous version of fascism that was developed by the man who was largely responsible for our national decadence is once again emerging as a curse on future generations, thanks to the same elements who beginning in 1973 tried to destroy public order and social peace, and unleashed the tremendous and bloody "dirty war" that mercilessly assaulted the very essence of the Argentine Nation.

The Justicialist candidate now has the opportunity to contribute to national pacification and to justify his denial of the accusations that he has promoted violence and divided our citizenry by emphatically repudiating and unhesitatingly discrediting the most alarming endorsement ever received by any politician who upholds republican institutions and claims to be a fervent supporter of democracy.

*** Garcia Vazquez: Foreign Debt a Political Issue**
33480039B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Oct 88 Sec 2 p 1

[Text] Speaking at a conference organized by the General Mosconi Argentine Energy Institute, the former head of the Central Bank and current presidential economic adviser stressed the importance of the foreign debt issue in Third World countries.

Garcia Vazquez began by explaining the origin of the debt, which he said began at about the same time in all countries: from the mid-1970s to the beginning of this decade.

The former official alluded to the "weaknesses" of the international financial system at that time, and went on to indicate that the problem was further exacerbated by the "misnamed" oil crisis. That crisis gave rise to a great recycling of dollars in the countries of Europe and other parts of the world, and their banks ended up lending the dollars to Third World countries.

In this way, explained Garcia Vazquez, the lending banks did not pay attention to what they were investing their money in, or to how certain or secure the return of principal and interest would be.

The presidential adviser also emphasized that the outcome would have been very different if that "enormous quantity of money" had been channeled and distributed through the World Bank to developing countries.

For all of these reasons, Garcia Vazquez concluded that there was joint responsibility for the indebtedness process: Many of the debtor nations misused the money (as did Argentina, for example), while the commercial banks "showed a total lack of professionalism" in the way they granted the loans, and finally, the creditor nations were to blame because "in one way or another, they also encouraged the loans through the organizations in which they had decisionmaking power, such as the International Monetary Fund, for example."

Garcia Vazquez placed the "beginning of the end" in August 1982, with the so-called "debt crisis" that arose out of the Mexican problem. This "had tremendous repercussions in all financial centers."

It was at that precise moment that the supposedly generous influx of funds was "cut off," stressed the former Central Bank president.

Another serious development aggravated the indebted countries' problems: During the same period, interest rates rose substantially until they reached double their previous level.

Later on, the Radical economist discussed the way the United States manages its economy, and recalled in that regard that the northern country finances its internal deficits with money obtained from abroad.

Garcia Vazquez also mentioned the impact that some countries' management of international trade had on the entire problem. When they artificially boosted production, they engaged in unfair competition with developing countries, many of which depend on agricultural products as their main source of revenues.

The economist also criticized the export subsidies that the United States and some other central countries apply, as they also have a negative impact on the economies of underdeveloped countries.

He went on to mention the "fatigue" of the debt, which in practice amounts to continual doubts about what will happen in those indebted countries that have poor economies and whose situations do not encourage any type of foreign investment. Garcia Vazquez also discussed the social tensions that affect the debtor nations (including Argentina), and pointed to the real danger they pose, particularly when Latin America, for example, is marching steadily toward democratization.

As for the solution to the problem, Garcia Vazquez expressed his conviction that it is not just economic. "There is no doubt that the solution must be political," the Radical Civic Union (UCR) economist said in response to a question.

In explaining his assertion, he cited the fact that many European countries have already considered this issue, and it has come under scrutiny in the most resistant of all countries, the United States.

In this regard, Garcia Vazquez claimed that several European nations are willing to cooperate, because they understand that this is a political problem. He emphasized that the problem has just begun to be considered as such in the country to the north, where Garcia Vazquez has recently participated in various talks, meetings, and conferences on the foreign debt of the Third World.

The speaker was introduced by the head of the General Mosconi Argentine Energy Institute, Jorge Lapena. On an emotional note, Dr Vazquez' first words were a tribute to the mentor of the Argentine Energy Institute, Roque Carranza.

* Steel Shipments To Generate $350 Million

33480039A Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 24 Oct 88 p 33

[Text] San Nicolas—Last September, the Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association (SOMISA) sent a historic shipment to Mexico. For the first time in the country's history, 12,000 tons of rails were exported. As a result of that first transaction, Mexican Railways has expressed interest in increasing the supply, up to 40,000 tons.

This is the fruit of a policy of growth, improved quality, and increased exports.

To achieve these goals, the business underwent some major modifications.

One of them, the most significant, was the modernization of the rail and section mill to meet the needs and specifications of the international market.

A technology update program was developed for the purpose of processing high resistance rails of up to 24 meters in length. The rail finishing line was modified, a second cooling bed was added, and the latest generation of ultrasound inspection equipment was installed.

The project was completed in record time, using the firm's own personnel, both in engineering development and in the corresponding supervision.

Thus, with these investments, SOMISA is in a position to offer a wide range of rails, thereby expanding its market with a product that has a greater value added.

During the manufacture of the rails that were shipped to Mexico, the Societe Generale de Surveillance inspected the quality. The products were transported on the ship "Rio Acre" within the time period previously set for this transaction.

In this way, Argentine rails shipped on Brazilian vessels will be used by the Mexican railroads, as a symbol of Latin American integration.

In the 1987/1988 fiscal year, the SOMISA shipments set a record, exceeding 1,678,000 tons. The products yielded higher tax revenues, and the billing totaled $600 million.

Thirty-five percent of these exports went to countries such as Italy, Belgium, Spain, Japan, China, Taiwan, the United States, Canada, Central America, Uruguay, Paraguay, Thailand, the Philippines, and Australia. They represented billings of $170 million for SOMISA.

These sales volumes yielded a healthy surplus of foreign exchange for SOMISA during that fiscal period. It has become one of the country's main exporters, and a leader in iron and steel products.

For this fiscal year (1988/1989), the company projects exports at more than 900,000 tons. Billing will total approximately $350 million, double the figure for the previous fiscal year. Transactions involving 455,000 tons have already been agreed upon.

* 60 Percent Domestic Debt Increase Reported

33480023D Bahia Blanca LA NUEVA PROVINCIA in Spanish 20 Oct 88 p 3

[Text] Buenos Aires—The Argentine domestic debt grew by 60 percent in the first 2 months of the Primavera Plan. The current total is 167.779 billion australes, or about $11 billion, according to a press report published yesterday.

The report indicates that the increase in the domestic debt is due to the practice of "taking funds from the market by floating public bonds, most of them in dollar denominations."

The story, which was carried in yesterday's afternoon edition of EL HERALDO (published in this city), stated that the figures were taken from the report issued the previous afternoon by the Finance Secretariat. That document reveals the "huge deficit in the treasury's accounts for the first 2 months of the Primavera Plan."

It goes on to say that the figures "bring to light a truly alarming fact, that the domestic debt grew by 60 percent during that 2-month period." This brings it to a total of 167.779 billion australes, or $11 billion.

The publication recalls that a study conducted last August, "using figures for the period up to April of this year, revealed that from the beginning of the Austral Plan the domestic debt had multiplied 1,100 times," and that at that time, "the equivalent in dollars was $5 billion."

The story comments that this "fact is evidence of what happens when the economic leadership gets around the promise not to issue more currency, which they made as a basic decision of the Austral Plan," by taking funds from the market instead.

It adds that "now, right in the middle of the Primavera Plan, the Treasury's practice of resorting to the market to obtain funds by floating public bonds, most of them in dollar denominations, multiplies the domestic debt many times. In July the total debt was 104.618 billion australes, in August it climbed to 140.618 billion, and by September it reached the alarming figure recorded in the latest official report" of the Finance Secretariat.

The domestic public debt also includes that of the immobilized reserves of the financial system (quasi-fiscal debt), which the Central Bank is trying to wipe out through the appropriation of exchange rate differentials.

Police Dismantle Drug Ring, Arrest 18 People

PY0712195288 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1526 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Summary] La Plata, 7 Dec (DYN)—The Narcotics Department of the Buenos Aires Province Police has dismantled a drug ring and arrested 18 people. According to the daily EL SOL of Quilmes, the police reported that the drug traffickers were selling about 56 kg of cocaine every month. One man, whose identification was not given, was arrested. He is reportedly linked to Bolivian drug king Roberto Suarez Gomez.

Drug Trafficker Arrested at Bolivian Border

PY0812011888 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2025 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Summary] Members of the gendarmerie in Agua Blanca have arrested an Argentine drug trafficker, Juan Carlos Albarracin, at the Bolivian border as he was trying to smuggle 19.8 kg of pure cocaine into Argentina. Albarracin was coming from Tarija, Bolivia.

Bolivia

Vice President Makes Official Trip to Europe

PY0912025888 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Dec 88 p 7

[Summary] Vice President Julio Garret left yesterday for Europe on an official trip during which he will visit France, Belgium, Austria, and Portugal, "to obtain financial support for the Simon Bolivar University."

In Brussels, Garret will attend an EEC meeting. He will then leave for Austria where he will attend an OPEC meeting.

In Lisbon, Portugal, Garret will discuss preparations for the seventh conference of chairmen of the Ibero-American Democratic Congresses with the chairman of the Portuguese Congress.

* MNR Denies Offering Palenque VP Candidacy

33480038B Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 7 Nov 88 p A-5

[Text] La Paz, 6 November (ANF)—The Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNR) at no time offered the vice presidency to Carlos Palenque, stated the party's presidential candidate, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, today.

This assertion was made in response to statements made by Carlos Palenque through two organs of the mass media that he owns, to the effect that the MNR had invited him to run for the second-highest office in the nation on that party's ticket.

"There is no truth in that; the only thing is that Carlos was on the MNR slate several times, as was his father. He is still a party member, but at no time has his name been considered for the vice presidency," stated Sanchez de Lozada.

He also emphasized that there is still no news with regard to his designation of a running mate, as this matter is still under study. "As soon as a decision is made, we will let you know," he told ANF.

Contrary to expectations, the meeting of the MNR Executive Committee last Friday did not result in the selection of a vice presidential candidate. It merely named a committee to organize election cadres and take care of other pre-election matters.

It should be noted, however, that the possibility of one of the current ministers being the vice presidential candidate was ruled out. Today is the deadline set by Article 149 of the Electoral Law for candidates to qualify for the top elective offices in the country.

*** Delgadillo Discusses IU Election Strategy**
33480038A Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 6 Nov 88 p B-5

[Report on interview with Walter Delgadillo Terceros, United Left vice presidential candidate; date and place not given]

[Text] The vice presidential candidate for the United Left (IU) front, Walter Delgadillo Terceros, talked with our editors about an essential aspect of the pre-electoral debates: the impact that the platforms that have been revealed so far will have on the country's political future.

In language that reveals a certain amount of self-critical reflection on the role of the left in recent times, Delgadillo acknowledges that the IU's purpose in participating in the elections next year is to become a parliamentary force that is capable of persuading certain rightist factions to move toward negotiations with the left.

The notion of engaging in parliamentary agreements with the "New Majority" Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) is a feature of the IU's campaign strategy, even though the party of Paz Zamora recognizes an instrument that is closely identified with the continuation of the current economic model.

Depending on how things go for the left in the elections, the "center" represented by Paz Zamora and his newfound allies (Serrate and Zamora Medinacelli) could either become an escape valve for breakaway factions or a guarantee of the economic program that has been in effect since August 1985 (although from the political point of view, the guarantee will have a definite Democratic and Popular Unity—UDP—tinge to it).

This gamble is implicit in the statements made by Walter Delgadillo, an industrial labor leader, former general secretary of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), and current candidate for vice president of the Republic on the ticket of the IU.

[LOS TIEMPOS] Is the IU membership aware that this front's parliamentary delegation will be obliged to vote for Jaime Paz Zamora in the case of a dispute over the elections in the next Parliament?

[Delgadillo] We feel that once the right has been divided into three factions—the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNR), the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), and the MIR—the possibilities for the left will be enhanced. Thus, the question is not whether or not we will ultimately support Jaime Paz, but what the other forces will do when the IU emerges as a major force of the left in Parliament. So the question will be, for example, what will the New Majority MIR do when it faces a IU that is willing to fight for a decisive position in the next session of Parliament.

[LOS TIEMPOS] Does that mean that a parliamentary agreement between the MIR and the IU is possible?

[Delgadillo] The MIR and the IU will probably have some specific areas of agreement in the next Parliament. Given that the IU will necessarily be an important element in that session, we had better think about obtaining specific concessions. And one specific concession, for example, is the elimination of free contracting and free importing, so that we can dismantle 21060. We will vote in Parliament for whatever group agrees with this kind of proposal. So our political commitment in Parliament will not be to people, but to a minimum program for halting 21060 and then reversing it.

[LOS TIEMPOS] At any rate, in entering a pact with the MIR, which you consider to be a rightist party along with the MNR and the ADN, the IU will move into rightist territory, don't you think?

[Delgadillo] It would be erroneous to lump the MIR together with the MNR and the ADN. That seems erroneous to me personally. It means ignoring a vital experience such as that of Victor Paz' MNR, which emerged in 1952 with the revolution and ended up firmly committed to the program of the new clique linked to imperialism. To think that the ADN, the MNR, and the MIR are the same is to overlook experiences that show how the New Majority MIR, for example, does not have the same historical background as the ADN, which has its roots in fascism, or the MNR, which has just committed itself to the new clique of 29 August 1985. The MIR has a long way to go to be definitely in the antinational camp.

[LOS TIEMPOS] Many observers and critics of the IU's position in Parliament feel that in the middle of all this there is a tendency to MIR-ify the the situation.

[Delgadillo] The national situation recently has allowed the emergence of certain forces. We must admit that since its origins, and according to plan, the different factions of the MIR have earned a very important place on the national political scene, from the right to the left. And I believe that the division of the MIR is just the expression of different class contents, but also of divergent programs between the New Majority MIR and the rest of the forces that originated in the MIR and are now in the IU. It is no accident that we are at loggerheads.

In terms of a specific political program, the New Majority MIR must go beyond words; it must find a way to establish continuity with the neoliberal model. In this connection, one fact that everyone knows but seems to forget, and that is worth recalling, is the trip by the MIR and ADN representatives to Washington in May along with the official delegation when Sanchez de Lozada went to negotiate the loans for a 3-year plan with the World Bank and the IMF. There the economic representatives of the MIR and the ADN made an explicit pledge, as did Sanchez de Lozada, to continue the economic plan

that has already been laid down. This is the guarantee of the continuity of the model that Jefrey Sachs talks about. According to Sachs, whether it is the ADN, the MIR, or the MNR that wins, the continuity of the current program is assured.

[LOS TIEMPOS] How, then, does the IU intend to enter into an agreement with the MIR, if it represents the continuity of the current economic model?

[Delgadillo] We should not lose sight of the fact that the function of the MIR, unlike the MNR or the ADN, in its search for positions, is to varnish the model. Its plan is to introduce populist elements in 21060, but it is really committed to the continuity of the model. I would say that the MIR wants to UDP-ize the current economic model. We, on the other hand, believe that there is no possibility for any program other than 21060, such as it is being implemented at present, or its opposite. There is no point in between, as the MIR contends, but within that inconsistency we can find some small areas of agreement.

[LOS TIEMPOS] Agreement along the lines of the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) program?

[Delgadillo] The UDP program is what Alan Garcia is doing in Peru today. It is a mixture that tries to keep both the IMF and the popular movement happy. It is a hybrid program, and it is precisely the UDP experience that forces us to think of an alternative, one that is based on mankind's essential needs as a central factor in national construction.

[LOS TIEMPOS] What, specifically, does the IU propose?

[Delgadillo] We propose a strategy of food security, of raw materials processing, of national economic integration based on genuine administrative decentralization. Above all, the foundation of our strategy is social control: social control in the financial system, social control in production, in exports, and foreign trade, social control over basic supplies and resources.

[LOS TIEMPOS] Why is there no more mention of nationalizations?

[Delgadillo] Social control can range from social control of the private sector to nationalization. The gradations of these measures are a matter to be studied in the upcoming process. These sectors will find surpluses that can be invested in vital needs, to the extent that there is social control and participation at all these levels. This is a program that is the reverse of the model, which we consider to be a privatist model that exports raw materials without control. Moreover, 21060 is a model based on the surpluses produced by drug trafficking. The model we propose, in contrast, is oriented toward solidarity, participation, and redistribution; it is state and private, mixed and community. Ours is a utopia that is as attainable as that of 21060, without the half-tones that the MIR wants to varnish it with.

* MRTK-L Requests Electoral Registration

33480038c Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p B-3

[Text] La Paz, 7 November (LOS TIEMPOS)—The Tupac Katari Revolutionary Movement-Liberation (MRTK-L) formalized its request to be registered and recorded so that it can participate in the general elections of 7 May 1989. This Monday (yesterday) marked the beginning of the period during which the National Electoral Court recognizes the candidates of the political parties, fronts, and coalitions.

The request was filed by Deputy Victor Hugo Cardenas, as general secretary of the MRTK-L. He indicated that his party has met all the legal requirements stipulated in the Electoral Law to participate in the general elections that have been called for the first Sunday in May next year.

Deputy Cardenas pointed out that the national Katarist movement is undergoing a process of reorganizing and strengthening its cadres, so that it can become a force representing the majority peasant sectors and continue its struggle to protect the majority interests as well as national and popular interests, without ideological, economic, or political ties to sectors of the bourgeoisie or foreign elements that have intervened in national life.

He also reported that talks have begun with the sector of the Revolutionary Front of the Left (FRI) that is headed by peasant deputy Casiano Amurrio, and with other popular organizations. The objective is to forge an alliance to participate jointly in the general elections next year, and to offer an effective alternative for liberation in contrast to the options of the rightist oligarchy and the left that has sold out to the transnationals.

He indicated that in the coming months several regional meetings will be held for the purpose of structuring the cadres of the Katarist Popular Liberation Movement, culminating in a national congress at which the candidates of the MRTK-L and its allies for president and vice president of the republic will be announced.

The schedule of activities drawn up by the National Electoral Court for the preparation and organization of the national plebiscite of 7 May 1989 states that between 7 November of this year (yesterday) and 7 February of next year the political parties, fronts, and coalitions that desire to participate in the elections should complete registration, recording, and recognition.

* YPFB Comments on Drilling Plans, Consumption

33480038D Santa Cruz de la Sierra EL MUNDO in Spanish 7 Nov 88 p 10

[Text] La Paz, 6 November (ANF)—The vice president for operations of the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB), Jorge Flores, indicated that if no major problem arises for the rest of the year, the drilling of wells, both working and exploratory, will amount to 80,000 meters.

He stated that the total for last year was the highest in 5 years, with drilling amounting to 65,000 meters. This figure should be exceeded this year if projections hold true; so far, planned drilling has been carried out.

In addition, he indicated that production has increased this year, although not substantially, over last year's figures for both natural gas reserves and liquid reserves.

We have 5.35 million cubic feet of natural gas, he reported, compared to 5 million cubic feet last year. We have 177 million barrels of petroleum and condensate, compared to 160 million in 1987. Although these totals are not huge, they indicate the effort the YPFB is making to expand its reserves and production, said Flores.

Consumption

As for daily consumption, he explained that it amounts to 21 barrels and that there is a balance. He admitted, however, that there are slight differences between the production and consumption of just gasoline.

He pointed out that gross petroleum production slightly exceeds the consumption of petroleum derivatives. "We have small margins with regard to gasoline, but we have surplus production of heavy products such as diesel oil and fuel oil," he added.

Los Magales

Finally, referring to the Magales oil field, he stated that studies show that it has condensate, and that once seismic studies are concluded (in 20 or 30 days), the number of wells to be drilled will be determined.

He said that the oil field is a structure of condensed gas that is slightly smaller than the Santa Cruz oil field, and that any contribution is significant for increasing liquid reserves.

Chile

Carvajal Terms Communist Support 'Convenient'

PY0812124188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The fact that the Communist Party, at the end of their National Congress, asserted that they will not give up their armed struggle has been termed very convenient by Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal. Minister Carvajal said it is now up to the people to judge and to act in order to prevent people from thinking that this sector, which worships violence, is going to change its way of thinking. The minister added that the Communists will always maintain their stance, and that this is something people should bear in mind in order to avoid siding with them and believing their lies.

When asked whether he thought the Broad Party of the Socialist Left, PAIS, was a fraud and a Communist tool, the minister said it is probably a front organization of the Communist Party.

The minister made this statement at the end of the weekly meeting at La Moneda Palace. [passage omitted]

Communist Youth Terrorist Cell Members Arrested

PY0812130088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The Investigative Police have arrested members of a terrorist cell of the proscribed Communist Youth who participated in 45 holdups in the capital. One of the holdups was at the Japanese School where three persons were killed.

The cell was made up of five men and one woman, from whom weapons and subversive literature were confiscated, according to the police report.

The arrested extremists have been identified as Pedro Guerrero Gonzalez, 28, also known as Pato; Luis Guillan Mayorga, 27, also known as Carlos; Natalia Maria Vazquez Gonzales, 31, also known as Naty or Pelu; Segundo Cardion Contreras, 20, also known as Javier; (Manuel Miranda Kavetz), 29, also known as Pollo; and Ricardo Carrasco Tovar, 26, also known as Pancho or Luquil.

The police also seized a gun [not further identified], a revolver, ammunition of various calibers, primers, fuses, forged identity cards, a submachinegun clip, and a large quantity of printed subversive material.

All of the arrested persons have been placed at the disposal of military prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva, who will try them for theft, illegal importation of weapons, violations of the arms control law, and terrorist actions.

* Citizens Polled on Dialogue, Elections

33480035A Santiago CAUCE in Spanish 31 Oct 88 pp 26-29

[Text]

Public Opinion in Greater Santiago 2 Weeks After the Plebiscite

The Institute for the New Chile commissioned DIAGNOS [an independent firm of consultants] to conduct a poll in the Greater Santiago area on 14, 15, and 16 October. The following were its objectives:

1) To inquire into the how the public judged the performance of the various branches and their commanders during the plebiscite.

2) To sound out the opinions and expectations of the public regarding the most appropriate forms of the transition to democracy, in consideration of the new political landscape after the plebiscite.

3) To gauge the public's current preferences for the presidential succession.

A quota sample weighted by socioeconomic stratum was taken of 577 people, with a random selection of the clusters and blocks for each stratum. The interviews were conducted in homes, in accordance with previously established quotas for sex and age.

To calculate the weighted totals a complex grid was used that enabled the sample to be adjusted statistically in accordance with the actual distribution of the population in terms of socioeconomic level, sex and age. As a result of these calculations each interview has a value other than 1/577, depending on its weight in the statistical population under consideration.

I. Performance of the Armed Forces and Their Commanders During the Plebiscite

Question: What do you think of the performance of.....on the evening of and in the days following the plebiscite?

	Good(%)	So-So(%)	Poor(%)	No Opinion(%)
President Pinochet	40	24.2	31.1	4.7
Admiral Merino	21.2	17.7	40.4	20.7
General Matthei	57.2	21.2	7.7	13.9
General Stange	41.5	20.1	16.5	21.9

Question: What do you think of the performance of.....on the day of and the days following the plebiscite?

	Good (%)	So-So (%)	Poor (%)	No Opinion (%)
Army	69.8	12.9	12.6	4.7
Navy	52.5	9.0	8.1	30.4
Air Force	62.6	9.2	7.7	20.5
Carabineros	58.5	16.1	21.0	4.4

The positive assessment of General Matthei's performance stands out among the chiefs of the Armed Forces. While the positive or negative assessment of the other Armed Forces chiefs correlates with the vote, a majority of both yes and no voters have a positive assessment of General Matthei.

II. Constitutional Reform and Constitutional Timetable

Question: After the plebiscite several political sectors, some of which supported a yes vote and others that supported a no vote, have made a variety of proposals for moving forward in the transition to democracy. I am going to read you some of these proposals so that you can tell me which ones you agree or disagree with:

	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Indifferent (%)	No Opinion (%)
1) Move the presidential election forward	48.1	46	4.1	1.8
2) Strict compliance with rules and time periods of the 1980 Constitution	47.9	44.7	3.4	4.0
3) Plebiscite to reform the constitution	62.5	29.6	2.4	5.5
4) All congressmen elected by direct vote	86.4	8.2	2.6	2.8

III. President Pinochet's Future

The list of proposals to be agreed or disagreed with also includes these two, which directly involve President Pinochet

	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Indifferent (%)	No Opinion (%)
1) President Pinochet should resign	52.6	41.1	4.4	1.9
2) Pinochet should remain president but resign as commander in chief of the Army	31.3	57.7	6.3	4.7

IV. Dialogue and Social Mobilization

The list also includes proposals having to do with dialogue and social mobilization

	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Indifferent (%)	No Opinion (%)
1) Dialogue between government and opposition leaders	78.8	15.4	3.1	2.7
2) Appointment of another ministerial cabinet made up of people closer to the opposition	56.1	33.4	6.2	4.3
3) Spur mobilization to pressure the government	29.7	64.4	3.5	2.4

V. Unity of Yes Forces and of the Opposition for the Presidential Succession

Question: Do you think that.....will agree on a single candidate for the next presidential election or that they will run more than one candidate?

	The Yes Forces (%)	The Opposition (%)
1) Will run one candidate	56.3	46.9
2) Will run more than one candidate	20.4	48.2
3) No opinion	7.2	4.9

The yes voters see the opposition as much more disunited than the no voters do. The latter, for their part, do not differ significantly from the yes voters in their perception of the unity among the yes forces.

VI. Type of Candidate Preferred

Question: Let us assume that the yes forces in the plebiscite agree on a single candidate for the next presidential election. Who would you like that candidate to be?

		Vote in Plebiscite	
	Total	Yes	No
Pinochet	14.9	32.4	6.7
Another military man	1.8	3.6	1.2
A civilian	73.7	58.8	81.7
No difference	5.7	2.6	6.7
No opinion	3.9	2.6	3.7

Question: Let us assume that the opposition agrees on a single candidate. From what group would you like that candidate to be?

		Vote in Plebiscite	
	Total	Yes	No
The National Party	10.8	25.7	3.9
Christian Democrats	43.1	30.6	51.7
PPD [Party for Democracy]	12.8	3.7	19.7
United Left	4.6	1.1	7.8
Independent	15.3	18.8	10.3

VII. Presidential Candidate Preference

The table below summarizes the responses to two questions. The column "spontaneous mention" gives the responses to the question: Who would you like to be the next president of the republic? Name him, please. The column "mention with alternatives" gives the responses to the question: And of the following persons, who would you like best as president of the republic? The names listed in the comparative table are the ones that were offered to the respondent in the question with alternatives.

	Spontaneous Mention	Mention With Alternatives
Frei	18.7	26.8
Aylwin	8.7	14.0
Pinochet	9.7	10.9
Buchi	3.5	8.7
Jarpa	5.9	8.0
Lagos	4.5	7.9
Hales	0.4	2.7
Zaldivar	1.2	2.6
Valdes	1.1	2.3
Almeyda	0.8	2.0
Other names	6.6	—
Others unnamed	3.5	—

VII. Presidential Candidate Preference

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None	4.7	9.1
No opinion	26.2	5.0

VIII. Voting Consistency

Question: How did you vote in the 5 October plebiscite, yes or no?

	Poll (%)	Actual Vote in Metropolitan Area (%)
Yes	28.8	40.3
No	54.9	57.4
Blank	3.4	0.8
Annulled vote	2.6	1.1
No answer	10.3	—

These findings are a quite acceptable approximation for the no vote but a significant underestimation of the yes vote. Moreover, the blank and null and void votes are slightly overemphasized in the poll.

The explanation for the "falloff" in the yes vote in the poll is essentially the 10.3 percent of the people who did not answer the question and, to a lesser extent, the 2.6 percent who said that they had annulled their ballots. In point of fact, an analysis of the responses of both groups to other questions enables us to assert that these are mostly people who voted yes and, when their selection went down to defeat, chose to conceal this. These two groups are, in fact, very similar to the yes voters. For example, they are clearly opposed to moving the presidential election forward, to a plebiscite to reform the Constitution and to Pinochet's resignation, while they are strong supporters of maintaining the rules and time periods of the Constitution. Moreover, they see the yes forces as united and the opposition forces as scattered. In short, their opinions, judgments and perceptions coincide to a high degree with the typical responses of the declared yes voters, which makes the hypothesis that most of them are yes voters quite plausible.

Colombia

Barco: Doors to Reconciliation 'Remain Open'

PA0812185788 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] President Virgilio Barco warned that every time the rifles are silenced, violence increases. Without specifically naming them, he was evidently referring to the armed rebel groups who declared a unilateral cease-fire. Barco was attending the graduation of 67 Air Force officers in Cali, where he affirmed that the doors to peace are not closed.

The doors to reconciliation are not closed; they remain open for those who demonstrate, with facts, that they have a sincere desire to respect the rules of the democratic game, said the president at the Marco Fidel Suarez Base.

The president insisted in his talk that demobilization and disarmament, within the framework of a peaceinitiative, represent the path that the violent ones must take in order to join all Colombians in their desire to eliminate violence. The president also referred to the needs of the Armed Forces, saying that the governmentis making a great effort to provide them with sufficient defensive capacity soon.

Guerrillas Release Kidnapped Soldiers in Caceres

PA0912024888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Eight soldiers who were kidnapped by the Colombian National Liberation Army 17 days ago were released today in Caceres, Antioquia Department.

The eight soldiers were immediately taken to the 10th Infantry Brigade Garrison at El Bagre.

Editorial Reaction to Relations With DPRK

PA0812161888 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 29 Nov 88 p 5-A

[Editorial: "Another Outstreched Hand?"]

[Text] A Bogota newspaper recently published some inexplicable news: the imminent start of diplomatic relations between Colombia and the DPRK, that faraway communist nation we fought in the 1950's. This is the same nation that established a picturesque presidium in Pyongyang while pursuing the harshest Stalinist policy, a policy that continues without regard for perestroyka and with all the extravagant barbarism of the Tartar hordes of centuries past.

Despite its consistent progovernment stand, this great Bogota newspaper [not further identified] did not dare highlight the report. It hid it in its middle pages among unimportant information, as if it doubted its likelihood or as if a secret disagreement resulted in a reluctance to publish it. However, one must consider this report true because the Foreign Ministry has not denied it.

The man in the street, the common citizen who feels that his political dreams and the basis of our democracy are crumbling, and the people who feel jostled by terrorism, unprotected and ungoverned, as well as led by misfortune and pushed toward the abyss, are unable to understand the government's reasons for making such a strange and useless decision: to establish relations with a country that means nothing to us and whose culture and ideology are foreign, not to say opposed, to ours. The DPRK, sunk in underdevelopment, would have nothing to sell to us except lead, and it would buy nothing from us. Its people do not drink coffee and do not have the bourgeois taste to import our flowers. In addition, it is very poor and is following an intrepid socialism that could never understand Marx's prophetic phrase: It is impossible to socialize misery.

According to the Constitution, foreign affairs are handled by the president exclusively and cannot be delegated, as the Supreme Court of Justice has recently ruled. Our political history and tradition, however, show that presidents have exercised this function, without diminishing their authority, by relying on the counsel of a body possessing very high authority, the Foreign Relations Advisory Commission. Past governments have tried to preserve the national character while handling international affairs, even in times of great tension between parties. The president's whim or factional interests did not prevail in such matters. The San Carlos Foreign Ministry was respected both in the interior of the country and by friendly nations.

A different attitude prevails today as we see the government's disdain for the Foreign Relations Advisory Commission. Hence, we have an erratic and improvised foreign policy that is nothing to brag about. The most contradictory and annoying example of this policy can be found in our relations with Venezuela, which range from faintheartedness to imprudence, from withdrawal of our schooners from Colombian territorial waters through intimidation to a protest note written in undue haste. Even more embarrassing, the note was written in such a deplorable style that it was immediately and indignantly rejected by the Venezuelan Government.

There is speculation that strings were furtively pulled to ensure a UN Security Council seat for Ambassador Penalosa [not further identified]. Communist Korea is not a member of the United Nations. This action merely showed impatience because, in due time, the much sought after honor would have come to Colombia under the rotation system. Why the hurry to establish relations with the DPRK, whose friendship or enmity will do us no good? The unfathomable mystery of Narino Palace increases its silence. We are going to remain in the dark concerning the secret intentions that might be moving the president to take such daring and unnecessary steps: jumping over the 38th parallel and jumping over the tombs of our soldiers who fell in the trenches of Monte Calvo when the Colombia battalion joined the ranks of the UN military contingent sent to reject communist aggression. This is an inexplicable boast that offends both our Army and the memory of our heroes who continue to fall at the hands of international subversives waging war against our country.

It would seem that Dr Barco also disdains history. Perhaps he has no regard for the ties that link us to South Korea. Perhaps he has already forgotten the medical attention showered upon him by the government of Seoul when he was stricken by a sudden illness, the one that brought the useless and melancholy tour of the Far East to a dramatic end. Otherwise, how would you explain that an outstretched hand had been provided to the tyrannical goverment of Pyongyang when in our own country the guerrilla forces have not shaken that hand, much less accepted or shown respect toward it.

Inflation for Jan-Nov Reported at 25.3 Percent

PA0812193288 Bogota El SIGLO in Spanish 3 Dec 88 pp 1-A, 12-A

[Summary] According to Alfonso Gonzalez Caro, director of the National Statistics Administrative Department, the cost of living in Colombia rose 25.3 percent from January to November 1988. Gonzalez Caro noted the inflation rate experienced a gradual deceleration after the 2d half of the year because the government adopted a series of monetary measures.

* Finance Minister Views 1989 Economic Outlook

33480051b Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 29 Oct 88 p 10-A

[Article by Jose Triana: "The Government Acknowledges That There Will Be Economic 'Reheating' Next Year"]

[Text] Medellin—It is possible that the industrial expansion rate may diminish next year due to economic "reheating." According to Minister of Development Carlos Arturo Marulanda, this phenomenon is caused by new increases in unsatisfied domestic demand, the exhaustion of installed capacity, and a lack of sufficient investment for broadening production capacity.

Speaking at the close of the 44th Assembly of the National Association of Industrialists, he also acknowledged that industry has been affected by the lack of competitiveness through excess protectionism and through low productivity caused by insufficient modernization of machines and equipment.

Marulanda announced that his ministry and other government offices are working on a industrial restructuring plan for iron and steel, the automotive sector, textiles and clothing, leather and shoes, and agroindustry. These sectors are showing increasing symptoms of stagnation, technological backwardness, a lack of competitiveness, and protectionism.

The official noted that the scope of this industrial restructuring naturally will depend on economic policy and substantial financial resources for its support and realization.

Previous plans notwithstanding, the minister stated that 1989 economic outlook is favorable for a revitalization of domestic demand in spite of increases in coffee prices.

Other favorable factors include the successful reactivation of the UPAC [constant purchasing power unit] system, good export performance, solid exchange rates, and recent coffee agreements. He indicated that the government is aware of problem areas, such as contraband, declining savings rates, and the need to free resources for revitalizing the private sector.

Marulanda Ramirez said that the inflation rate will probably be lower over the next few months because food shortage problems have been corrected and payment methods improved.

One of the challenges in the coming years, the minister said, is to increase industry's share of gross domestic product from 21.6 to 30 percent.

Until now, installed productive capacity has been increased by satisfying a relatively slow growth in demand or through some other economic sector which has prospered, he added.

Other challenges for industrialists and for the country as a whole are to modify capacity and productivity levels, to increase the production capacity of the management sector, and to increase the base of participation by discouraging monopolies.

"It is essential for Colombia to improve its efficiency. This calls for a serious effort to organize the different factors affecting industrial activity, including the technological variable."

*** Businessmen Discuss Debt Problem, Solutions**
33480037A Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
1 Nov 88 p 10-A

[Article by Carlos Pineros: "Businessmen Propose Three Formulas To Solve the Debt Crisis"]

[Text] Yesterday for the first time the private sector of Ibero-America launched a platform of solutions to the international debt crisis. The platform has three central points:

1. A political pact among debtors regarding the negotiating terms and minimum advantages, without precluding individual arrangements.

2. Flexible policies for repatriating capital and attracting new foreign investment. As a complement, the reduction of the size of the state, privatizing nonessential enterprises and adhering to criteria of efficiency and social economy. A greater presence of domestic products on the world market.

3. Opening the internal economy as protectionist barriers are dismantled in industrialized countries.

The proposal was put forth for the consideration of all the agents involved in the debt problem by the Ibero-American Association of Chambers of Commerce (AICO), which represents the private sectors of Latin America, Spain, and Portugal.

The president of Colombia, Virgilio Barco, expressed confidence that the organization's conclusions will contribute to a final solution. His finance minister, Luis Fernando Alarcon Mantilla, issued a public warning regarding the deterioration of the terms of trade in the financial world.

"It is well known that Colombia has followed the guidelines for economic management that are now being required for Latin American countries to be eligible for access to so-called voluntary credit.

"If it becomes impossible for the country, under the present circumstances, to continue along the path of refinancing rather than restructuring, one of the fundamental elements of the international financial system's rationality will be proven outmoded."

In spite of everything, the minister is optimistic that the World Bank will approve a loan of $1.85 billion so that the country can pay the obligations that will fall due in 1989 and 1990.

The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, which support Colombia, believe that the bankers will ultimately give a favorable response.

Minister Alarcon gave the opening address at the businessmen's meeting, which will last until Wednesday. He presented a case study of Colombia.

Mario Suarez Melo, secretary of the AICO, discussed the ups and downs of the crisis, its origins, developments, and consequences. He also proposed the first solutions to come from the Ibero-American private sector.

"This is the point of departure for the inclusion of the private sector in the analysis of the foreign debt problem," he said, "and we are confident that the discussions will be fruitful."

In his opinion, the statements made by IMF Director Camdesus to the effect that a 5-year period should be given for reworking the failed strategy for solving the debt problems are "truly discouraging." "The situation does not permit any more extensions or waiting," he noted.

The social impact of the economic adjustments has been more unemployment, lower wages, less production, more exports of foreign exchange, less credit, and higher prices for basic goods. The perilous deterioration of democracies means that we cannot afford to wait.

The minister emphasized the contradiction of the financial markets: They want to keep their presence in geographic areas, but they continue to reduce their exposure in Latin America.

"If these contradictions are not resolved satisfactorily," he said, "the financial market may very well be incapable of responding fully to the country's financial needs. This would leave us no choice but to opt for forceful mechanisms for obtaining the resources we need."

The UN Development Program (UNDP) was also one of the sponsors of this conference. Its regional director for Latin America, Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, summed up his opinion in one sentence: "Countries should pay what is just and grow with justice."

This Tuesday prominent former ministers and international officials are scheduled to speak. Former Conservative President Misael Pastrana Borrero is also slated to give a speech, in which he will stress the need to waste no time in restructuring the Colombian debt.

* Terrorist, Weather Damage to Roads Detailed

33480051C Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish
5 Nov 88 p 9-A

[Excerpts] Roadways in La Guajira, Bolivar, Antioquia, Atlantico, Santander, Norte de Santander, Cordoba, Magdalena, Boyaca, and Caldas continue to be those most affected by recent bad weather and by recent terrorist attacks.

This weekend, the minister of public works and transportation, Luis Fernando Jaramillo Correa, traveled to the Atlantic coast to inspect road conditions in Carmen de Bolivar, one of the towns most affected by flooding on the Alferez River, which flows through the city. He will also visit Corozal, Cesar, and Sincelejo in Sucre.

Before leaving on his trip, the official announced a new 5 billion-peso IBRD load to speed up work on national roads which suffered approximately 8 billion pesos in damages. This credit is part of loan 2829 negotiated by the minister in mid-1988 in Washington to finance paving and road improvements.

The minister also stated that the release of $15 to $17 million of funds is being negotiated, to be drawn from a previously approved loan from the Inter-American Development Bank, for the reconstruction of at least 50 bridges which have been destroyed by bad weather or guerrilla attacks. [passage omitted]

On this matter, the minister said that the ministry's plan is to be prepared for any kind of emergency, including attacks, by using temporary bridges which allow transit to be resumed within 36 hours.

On this occasion, he indicated that eight bridges were destroyed by attacks, including the 50-meter-long Santa Maria bridge at Mata Cacao in Barrancabermeja, which was completely destroyed. Other damaged structures include the bridge between Apartado and Turbo, the Palmitas bridge, the bridge on the Medellin-Santa Fe de Antioquia road, which must be completely rebuilt, the bridge between La Ye and Cerete, and the La Romera bridge on the Sogamoso River on the San Vicente de Chucuri-Bucaramanga road. [passage omitted]

Damage to these bridges has forced detours and the installation and temporary spans. For example, in Mata Cacao, where an attempt was made to block the transport of petroleum, [Director General of Roadways Mauricio] Nieto said that a temporary metal pipe will be installed Sunday and Monday. The new bridge construction will cost approximately 150 million pesos, he added. [passage omitted]

* MRN Rumors Precede Segovia Massacre

33480061 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
13 Nov 88 p 11-A

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Several days ago, the rumor of a massacre began to spread through the streets of Segovia. People were aware of what was going to happen. Many state that the threats came from the "Death to Revolutionaries in Northeast Antioquia" Movement (MRN).

Cocaine Laboratory, Coca Plantation Destroyed

PA0812194788 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish
1 Dec 88 p 11

[Summary] Antinarcotics police units destroyed a cocaine laboratory on a farm in San Jose del Guaviare yesterday. The laboratory was able to produce one ton of cocaine per month. The police arrested three people and destroyed a 12-hectare coca leaf plantation surrounding the laboratory.

The police also seized 80 11.5-kg units [arrobas] of coca leaves that were ready for processing, 2,000 gallons of ammonia, 1,800 gallons of gasoline, and 176 gallons of sulfuric acid.

According to authorities, the cocaine processed in the laboratory was mostly sent to the United States and Europe.

Police Seize 7 Tons of Marijuana in Valle

PA0812130688 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Dec 88 p 10-B

[Summary] The police confiscated 7 tons of marijuana yesterday hidden inside 420 boards in Valle Department. The drug has an approximate value of 300 million pesos. The confiscation was carried out at a warehouse in the industrial area of Palmira. There were no arrests.

Ecuador

Borja 'Excited' Over Andres Perez Election

PA0812124888 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1922 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Quito, 5 Dec (DPA)—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja said today that he was "excited" over Carlos Andres Perez's victory in yesterday's Venezuelan presidential election, and said that the result of the Venezuelan elections is "great news for Latin American democracy."

"Carlos Andres Perez is an undisputed leader of democracy in Latin America," Borja said. He described the Venezuelan president-elect as "my dear friend."

Rodrigo Borja and Carlos Andres Perez are two prominent members of the Socialist International, an organization of which both have been vice president.

The Ecuadoran president, whose government came to power 4 months ago, was also very pleased with the failure of the military uprising in Argentina. "All Latin American democrats support President Raul Alfonsin at a time when democracy is being put to the test," said Borja, who is also a personal friend of the Argentine president.

"Democracy in Latin America has received two pieces of good news in the last few hours," the Ecuadoran president added, referring to Perez's victory and to Alfonsin's consolidation of power.

Police Find Drugs on Eastern Airlines Plane

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[Summary] A Guayaquil civil judge today ordered that an Eastern Airlines plane on which police found 4 kg of cocaine be detained at Guayaquil's Simon Bolivar Airport. The judge reported to the media that he has ordered the detention of the plane until investigations are carried out to determine the origin of the drug, which was found yesterday hidden under two of the airplane's seats. The plane was coming from Cali, Colombia.

OPEC Assigns New Oil Production Quota

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[Text] OPEC assigned Ecuador an oil quota of 230,000 barrels a day, which is 10,000 barrels over the official limit of 220,000 but 80,000 below the country's requirement.

The regular OPEC conference in Vienna fixed a new OPEC production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels a day, which replaced the previous ceiling of 16.5 million. This time the ceiling includes Iraq, a country that has remained outside of OPEC since 1986.

A reference price of $18 a barrel and the distribution of the 18.5 million barrels were agreed upon following 8 consecutive days of intense OPEC discussions and were approved by OPEC's biggest producer, Saudi Arabia.

Through Energy and Mines Minister Diego Tamariz, Ecuador asked OPEC to allow the country to continue producing a fixed quota of 310,000 barrels a day to permit the country's socioeconomic development.

The quota of 230,000 barrels means a nominal drop of 80,000 barrels from the desired 310,000. The country's oil production has been about 300,000 barrels a day since August 1987, when Ecuador resumed pumping crude through the trans-Ecuadoran oil pipeline following an interruption of more than 5 months due to damage caused by the 5 March earthquake.

At the December 1987 conference, OPEC authorized Ecuador to produce 310,000 barrels of crude oil until it recovered the losses it suffered. This agreement expired on 30 September 1988.